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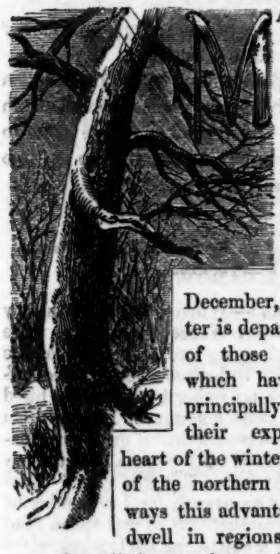
CALENDAR FOR MARCH.

The stormy MARCH is come at last,
With wind, and cloud, and changing skies;
I hear the gushing of the blast,
That through the snowy valleys flies.

Ah! passing few are they who speak,
Wild, stormy month, in praise of thee;
Yet, though thy winds are loud and bleak,
Thou art a welcome month to me.—*Bryant.*



MARCH, stormy and changeful as it is, has yet this redeeming grace — that it brings with it a promise of something better. Though storms may come with all the fury and more than the gloom of December, we know that winter is departing, or to use one of those common phrases which have been common principally on account of their expressiveness — "the heart of the winter is broken." We, of the northern latitudes, have always this advantage over those who dwell in regions of perpetual summer, that all that we have of beauty in climate is heightened a thousand fold by the contrast of a world to all intents and purposes dead, half the year. The few bright sunny days that are vouchsafed to us in March, how beautiful they seem in their sombre setting of clouds and storms and "chilling winds." Every spot of bare ground, from which the sun has thawed away the snow a little prematurely, looks familiar and welcome as the face of a friend who has long been absent. Even a flock of wild geese flying over, awaken an interest, and their cackling, which is in itself by no means melodious, has a kind of music for our ears, for we know when we hear it, they have felt in their downy bosoms that summer is coming, up in the hills and mountains of New England. Something which we call instinct told them so when they were down among the swamps and everglades of Florida, and straightway they packed up, and set off on their long journey. No man can interpret the guide-book which directs their course, but right through the air they come, looking serenely down upon us, with our railroads and telegraphs, and poor attempts at balloon-making.

The pleasure with which we listen to the first croaking of the frog, too, would be incomprehensible to one who had never associated it with the loosening of frozen brooks, and the first faint tinge of green on the grass, and the swelling buds of the trees. We are always glad to hear him singing again in the far-off meadow, albeit he sets his tunes in a minor key, and sings them in the pensive twilight.

Probably all animals have premonitions of returning summer. It is certain that all wild animals do, for they plan their work, and make their preparations for a new mode of life with as much discrimination as man himself. Our domestic animals, being dependent on us for their support, do not lay their plans in the same way, and yet we seem to see in them a new element of lazy contentment, or sportive joy, which just as plainly expresses their approbation of the change that is gradually coming over the face of nature.

For example, look at that ox, as he stands looking out of the barn door, or in the sunny corner of the yard, chewing his cud in a meditative mood. Don't you see plainly written on his countenance that he is thinking of the "better days a coming," when he shall roam through the pastures at will, helping himself in the natural way to a splendid feast of green grass, instead of eating dry hay pitched at him with a fork, by the farmer's boy? Don't you see that he is instituting a comparison

between the watering trough where he and his companions have fought for freedom all winter, and the pure, running brook by the old willow tree? The sheep, we can't help imagining, has not quite got over his last impressions of getting his own living—when he was left, late in November, to browse out on the bleak, barren hill-side, and grind his poor nose down to a point, among the sharp rocks, in search of a bite, which, after all, proved to be nothing but a bramble or a thistle. If he has had an experience of two or three years, he may be looking fearfully forward to the time when the shearers will rob him of his wool again, and leave him shivering, naked in the blast. For he has never heard about the wind being "tempered to the shorn lamb," and therefore cannot bring the consolations of philosophy to his aid.

Yet even the sheep, stupid, not to say *sheepish*, as he looks, must rejoice to feel the warm south wind playing through his "hyacinthine locks," though doubtless his anticipations are much colored and marred by the trials heretofore mentioned, and numerous others with which his mortal state abounds, as fettered limbs, great dogs, &c., &c. Strange, that an animal so frisky as the lamb, whose name has indeed become the very synonym for playfulness—should ever turn out an old sheep. Does not the fact that he can so soon forget his lambhood, go far to show that the cares of life do press heavily upon him? You call a person a "sheep," and he does not usually feel complimented; and yet when a mother would use the strongest expression of endearment for the infant on her knee, she says—"little lamb."

But the most triumphant of all animals is the rooster. Glad are we to hear his "clarion" out in the free air once more. Lord of the manor is he, by an inherent right which no one would think of disputing. That he is weather-wise, is abundantly proved by the old stanza,

"Crow on the fence,
The storm's going hence;
Crow on the ground,
The storm's coming down."

[Of course we do not hold ourselves responsible for the rhyme of "ground" and "down."]

It must have been in consideration of this peculiar gift of his, that his effigy has been so long used as a weather vane, and, in our opinion, nothing so handsome has ever been substituted for it. Rampant horses, wooden men with swords in their hands, oxen, fishes, arrows,—none of these come up to the mark, like a real old-fashioned weather cock. When he would foretell fair weather, how triumphantly he

"Turns his golden crest,
To catch the breezes of the West."

But when a storm is brewing, he switches his long tail-feathers about, and looks defiantly to the north-east, letting the wind and rain beat against his breast with unshrinking boldness.

When a certain barn was burned to the ground, and two unfortunate *pigs* perished in the flames, a young man was heard to remark that he did not care so much for the property, "but he did hate to see *human nater* burnt."

Everybody laughed, but the individual in question was not so very far out of the way, besides showing a sympathizing spirit which did him honor. There is, in fact, a great deal of "human nater" in animals, as every one may know who will watch their habits and customs.

Existence should be made much more pleasant to them than it is, for between them and us there is this difference, that while all our suffering is, or may be, disciplinary, and will be more than made up to us hereafter, *they* suffer without knowing why, without even being capable of improving by it, and when they die by violence to minister to our wants, or perish after a life spent in our service, that, as we suppose, is the end. They have no reward. Ought not the harmless creatures, then, to receive kindness from our hands? Is the subject beneath our notice?

When the world is waking up to life, and an electric thrill of happiness runs through us, in which all animal and vegetable things seem to sympathize, what an appropriate time to put into practice human resolves!

For the New England Farmer.

FOWL MEADOW GRASS.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—When I was a boy in my native town, Lancaster, Worcester country, there was a tract of land, lying on both sides of the Nashua River, which had never been cleared, offered for sale, which my father bought. He hired help, and cut off a large amount of lumber. On the intervale, there were patches of grass quite extensive, which he called native grass. But at hay time, one of his mowers said it was called "fowl meadow grass," and so named, (as I remember he said,) because a remarkable fowl was found dead there. I never knew it cultivated, till I reaped off the heads, some fifty-six years ago, which I have often done since. Trying it on different soils and seasons of the year, mixed and alone, I esteem it first rate stock hay. Sown on the surface of damp burnt land, it does admirably, and will not run out. if cut late. I will not say that early cutting kills it, or that it requires the annual dropping of ripe seed; but, as requested, give my experience. Being tender at first, I sow it alone, and on plowed ground, and only roll it in. BENJ. WILLARD.

LAND TITLES IN CALIFORNIA.—As illustrative of the deplorable uncertainty of land titles in California, Mr. Greeley says, in one of his letters,

"I met to-day an intelligent farmer who has had three different farms in this State, and has lost them successively by adjudications adverse to his title." And, in speaking of the privileges of miners, he adds: "To dig up a man's fenced garden, or dig down his house, in quest of gold, is the legal right of any miner," subject, of course, to payment of damages, if the roving miner should prove responsible.

For the New England Farmer.

RECLAIMING SALT MARSHES.

MR. EDITOR:—I have been looking into your *Farmer* for the last three years to see something touching the marine meadows that line the shores of New England. They have received very little attention, judging from the agricultural papers, and the reports of the State and county societies. Though salt marsh was successfully reclaimed a hundred years ago by Rev. JARED ELLIOT, of Killingworth, Ct., and fine crops of clover and herds grass produced, I do not now know of half a dozen instances where the improvement has been made.

From the little experience and observation I have had of these lands, I am persuaded that they are much the best grass lands in the country, and that no improvement upon a shore farm will pay so well as the reclaiming of these wastes. There are thousands, yes, millions of acres, of these marshes lying all along our sea-board, that can be economically reclaimed. They now produce a variety of marine grasses that barely pay the expense of cutting. Cattle eat a little of the hay, by way of relish, but do not thrive upon it. The best use it can be put to, is bedding and manure making. For the purpose of calling the attention of your readers along the seaboard to these unprized lands, I wish to make a brief statement of a little operation, that has come under my own observation.

The reclaimed marsh lies within the limits of Stonington borough, and just inside of the Providence and Stonington Railroad. It embraces about nine acres, one of which is now occupied by the Stonington and New London Railroad, leaving about eight acres of the improved land. A small stream runs through it in the winter. In the fall of 1855, a side gate was put into the culvert, at the railroad embankment, through which this stream empties into the sea. This culvert was the only outlet, and the gate completely controlled the access of the sea-water. As the culvert was made of stone, and the passage was only about four feet in width and depth, the expense of stopping the sea-water was small, not exceeding five dollars. The old ditches around the edge of the marsh were cleared out, and some new ditches were made, cutting off all the fresh water that came in from the adjoining uplands. The marsh could only be drained about eighteen inches, owing to the stone bottom of the culvert, and the small rise and fall of the tide at this place.

The first summer after the tide gate was put in, nothing was done with the land, except to mow it, and watch the change in the vegetation. It had been the custom of the former owners of the marsh, to get about two loads of salt hay on the nine acres, not enough to pay for mowing. The first season after the improvement, the hay was more than doubled, and the quality was very much improved. It was also observed that dandelions, dock, and other upland plants, had started in many places. It was inferred that grasses would grow where weeds did, and in the fall of 1856 and the spring of '57 clover, herds grass and red-top seeds were sown on the greater part of the marsh. Some of it was sown upon the snow. Nothing was done to the seed, by way of covering; most of it took well, and pure herds grass, three feet high, was cut in July from seed sown about three months before.

Seeing that the land was disposed to make so good returns, for every thing that was done for it, the new owner spread various kinds of soil upon the surface, to help the growth of the grass another season. Garden soil, gravel, yellow loam, ditch mud and compost from the yard, were spread on in various places. The poorest grass was upon that part that had no dressing, but this yielded not far from a ton to the acre. That dressed with gravel yielded better, that with yellow loam better still, that with garden soil better yet, and that dressed with ditch mud was about equal to that covered with compost.

A part of it, designed for pasture, was sowed with a mixture of white and red clover and herds grass seeds. It was also dressed about half with garden soil, and half with ditch mud. This acre and a half has pastured two cows five months the past season. It would have yielded at least four tons of good hay. From the rest of the marsh about thirteen tons of good hay were cut, a part of which was sold, in the field, for twelve dollars a ton. Had the whole been kept in meadow, and the hay sold, it would have come to over two hundred dollars, or one hundred and fifty dollars clear of all expense.

In the course of the improvement over two hundred cords of muck have been taken from the ditches, a part of which has been sold at a dollar a cord, and the rest used upon the adjacent upland. It is estimated that this muck has more than paid for all the expense of ditching, and top-dressing, and grass seed. The land is now worth three hundred dollars an acre, and will pay seven per cent. on that sum as long as it is taken care of.

From this statement it will be seen, that there is no more inviting field for improvement than these marshes. The chief expense will be in the embankment; but many of these marshes are situated along the banks of creeks, presenting a narrow border to the sea, so that every rod of dyking would protect an acre of land. These marshes do not now, as a rule, pay the interest on five dollars an acre, and they can be bought from five to fifty dollars an acre. As soon as they are reclaimed, they will pay the interest on from one to two hundred dollars an acre.

What an immense addition it would be to the productive wealth of New England, if all these marine wastes were reclaimed, and made to do their duty! How long will farmers suffer them to be idle, and complain that farming does not pay?

W. CLIFT.

Stonington, Ct., Jan. 12th, 1860.

In England there is liberty without equality In France there is equality without liberty.

For the New England Farmer.

IS FARMING PROFITABLE?

MR. EDITOR:—So long as men are governed by the natural inclinations of their hearts, so long as they are controlled by the love of money more than by love for their neighbor, so long will this inquiry be applied to every department of business in which men are engaged. If you offer employment to him who carries the hod; if you seek for one to enter the halls of learning; if you open the halls of science, and invite one to come in and labor there; if you point to the chair of office, and say to your friends, the public good demands of you to seek it; if you open the church door, and look for the servant of God to proclaim the news of salvation; by each and every one, the first inquiry which meets you is: Is it profitable? Will it pay? I am aware that this is no new subject for your columns, but as I am a tiller of the soil, with very limited means, I am possessed of some facts which, if brought to light, may help to stay the rush of our young men to other professions which offer them speedy returns, but less profit.

What I now propose in order to show you that farming is profitable, is to give you the history of a young man who has been under my notice for the last six years. A young man in this county, in the town of ——, purchased a farm of eighty acres of land in a run down condition, in a stony, rough section. For this farm he promised to pay $2,400, which at the time was thought by the neighbors to be all the place was worth, but being of a resolute mind, having a strong arm and willing heart, he determined to try his luck. Having been a reader of the *New England Farmer* and *Massachusetts Ploughman* for years, he did not adopt the opinions nor practice of his neighbors, but struck out a line of policy for himself, bringing to his aid all the information which could be gathered to suit his own case, both from reading and observation, so that at this time, where stood the old brush pine, stands the substantial stone wall. The rocks have many of them disappeared from the mowings, some of the wet lands have been underdrained, and the best of grasses have taken the place of the poorest. The old barn, without a cellar, has been re-modelled and enlarged, to accommodate the increase of crops, until the passer by beholds a modern barn of eighty feet in length, with a cellar under the whole. The house has also been entirely put in order, shade trees have been set out, the yard has been ornamented by setting the larch, fir, cherry, crab-apple and various kinds of roses. Flowers, also, have come in for a large piece of ground, and have served to make the ornamental department complete. He would never keep any but the best of stock, and, as might be expected, he obtained a large supply from his dairy, which was the great secret of his success.

At the time he bought his farm, he was not worth one dollar in the world; he had to run in debt for both farm and stock, farming tools, house furniture, and every item of personal property which he possessed. This will be sufficient for you to see that if to-day he is worth any thing, he must have made farming profitable. Now I will give you the result of his labors. He has recently sold his farm to one of his old neighbors for $700 more than he paid for it, and he is now able to tell how he stands in the world. To my own personal knowledge, he is to-day worth hundreds of dollars in cash. If you ask him if farming is profitable, he will at once reply, Yes.

As might be expected, while he was farming with so much intelligence, and enterprise, he has been one of the foremost in all matters of town, society and district. In a great measure by his efforts, has an agricultural society been established in this town, and none have been more ready to give both time and money to help forward any enterprise which promised to be of benefit to the community around him.

Now, Mr. Editor, I would like to know in what business could that young man have engaged, without means, which would have given him so good a living, so much comfort, so much pleasure, so much health, and at the same time make to him so good a return for his labor? In closing, let me say that I believe no business, if conducted with intelligence, is more profitable than farming. And I would say to all young men who have been brought up on a farm, qualify yourselves for your business, and by all means stick to farming. Strive to be a farmer in the fullest sense of that word, by improving your land, and increasing your crops, and not be an exhauster of the soil.

PROFIT.

For the New England Farmer.

THE WEATHER OF 1859.

MR. EDITOR:—I herewith present a few remarks upon the weather of the *winter months* of 1859, which have not been before treated upon in the *Farmer*, and which complete my history of the weather of 1859, at least that portion I choose to offer the public. Though the other months have been commented upon at some length by me on pages 359 and 484 of the last volume of the monthly *Farmer*, it may be well to briefly recall the leading features of each month; while I annex tables showing the mean temperature, days of wind from various quarters, storms, clear and cloudy days, &c., for each month and for the year.

January, taken together, was not a severe winter month, but was quite peculiar, and strongly marked by an almost unprecedented storm of snow —nearly two feet falling between ten, P. M., on the 3d and three, P. M., on the 4th, which, drifting badly, rendered the roads generally impassable till broken out with heavy teams and shovels —and by a term of cold that has no parallel on the local records of this region. The only recent time that fairly enters into competition with it was in January, 1857, when the mercury continued below zero at one time for *forty-three* consecutive hours—from six, P. M., on the 22d, to one, P. M., on the 24th,—while the mercury was below zero in January, 1859, for *sixty* hours in succession, or for *two days and a half*, covering the 10th and 11th; and the lowest point in both cases was 26° below zero. On Monday, the 10th, the temperature was 8° below zero at sunrise, or at seven o'clock, and the cold gradually increasing, was 11° below at eight; 14° below at quarter past nine; at ten, 13° below; at twelve M., 11° below; at three, P. M., 10° below; at 4½, P. M., 12° below; and at ten, P. M., 20° below! and on the following morning 26° below, while a thermometer half a mile from mine indicated 30° below! Added to this

was a strong, piercing wind from the north, which greatly increased the apparent intensity of the cold, and rendered travelling wholly unsafe, and accounts of frozen limbs and even death by freezing were not unfrequently reported; yet the sky was clear and the sun bright throughout nearly the whole day. The mean temperature of the 10th was 12.67° below zero, (8° below zero being the highest point of the day!) and of the following day the 11th, 11.5° below; the nearest recorded approaches to this being 9.5° below on the 23d of January, 1857, and 4.33° below on the 18th of the same month and year.

The general character of the remainder of the month was quite mild, and the mean temperature of the whole month was 24.48°. Excluding five days commencing with the 8th, the temperature of the month would be 29.19°, or only about three degrees below the freezing point. The highest temperature of the month was 44° above zero, and the lowest 26° below zero, giving the unusual range of 70° for one month. The warmest day was the 6th, with a mean temperature of 35.83° above zero, and the coldest was the 10th, with a mean temperature of 12.67° below zero—a difference of 48.5° between the mean temperatures of two days in one month, and even but four days apart.

A very large amount of water was deposited in the rain and snow of the month, three heavy storms of rain occurring, and the ground was covered with a thick stratum of ice, so that the sleighing was good, though but very little snow fell after the heavy storm in the fore part of the month. There was much cloudy and disagreeable weather, and though there were some fine days, the unpleasant elements predominated; and by consulting the annexed tables the amount of cloudiness may be ascertained, as well as the number of days of wind from the several quarters from which it came.

February was much milder than that month usually is, but the sleighing was tolerably good throughout the month, the ground being covered with a thick layer of ice, in consequence of the frequent rainstorms, but not a large quantity of snow fell. Cloudiness was a characteristic of the weather, and storms of snow or rain were very frequent, four of the former occurring, in which fell fourteen inches of snow, and five of the latter, averaging a storm for every third day; and there were but four clear days in the whole month. The mean temperature of the month being 29.44°, was but little below the freezing point; and the range of the temperature was quite uniform, one week varying but little from the others. The highest temperature was 53°, on the 23d, and the lowest was 4°, on the 27th. The coldest day was the 12th, having a mean temperature of 17°; the warmest was the 23d, with a mean temperature of 40°.

December came in with two remarkably warm, lowery, Indian summer-like days, the thermometer standing at 66° in the shade, (in which all observations are given,) on the 2d, or three degrees higher than on the 4th of July, while the mean temperature of the day was 54°; the 2d of December, 1859, being but half a degree colder than the 4th of July of the same year! a pretty fair specimen of the eccentricity of the year 1859, in a meteorological point of view. The weather became cold, however, on the 3d, and the remainder of the month was rather colder than the average of winter months. Towards the close of the month the weather was even remarkably cold, the mean temperature of the 28th being 5.67° below zero, while the temperature at sunrise on the 29th was 18° below zero; and this is reported to be the coldest December weather that has occurred in this region in the last ten years. On the 9th the temperature was one degree below zero, it having fallen 54° during the thirty-six hours preceding; and during the month the temperature was five times below zero at sunrise, as follows: on the 9th, 1° below; on the 16th, 1° below; on the 28th, 12° below; on the 29th, 18° below; and on the 31st, 8° below. The mean temperature of the month was 22.11°. The highest temperature was 66° above zero, and the lowest was 18° below zero, giving the remarkably great range of temperature for one month of 84°.

It was a characteristic of the storms that they commenced with snow or sleet, and almost invariably terminated with a fall of rain. The sleighing, however, was fair throughout nearly the whole month. There were eight storms, depositing twenty inches of snow and sleet, and with the rain equalling 3.94° inches of water. For further particulars, respecting the wind, &c., reference may be had to the tables, in the two months above.

The leading features of *March* were its mildness and the early opening of spring—the snow generally disappearing by the 10th, and the ground was quite free from frost as early as the 20th—although it was marked by very heavy and disastrous freshets in the valley of the Connecticut River.

The month of *April* was quite fine, and tortured by no severe extremes, the season preserving its forwardness with but slight interruptions, the pastures being green at the close of the month, at which time many trees were expanding their leaves.

And through *May*, even, the development of vegetation was rather more rapid than usual, cherry trees being in full blossom on the 9th, and apple trees on the 18th—a sufficient encomium upon the season.

But clouds, and rain, and cold nights, were prominent features in the weather of *June*, frosts injuring the newly planted crops of corn and potatoes, and severely nipping vegetation in general. Indeed, the weather was too cold for vegetation to advance but slowly, and the superabundance of moisture was hardly a less evil to the farmer.

July was a very fine month, agreeable alike to hay-makers and the growing crops.

August was much more doubtful for the farmer, the fore part being very warm, while the last part was unusually cool, and there was a scanty supply of rain, and though vegetation suffered much from drought in some localities, it escaped its effects generally here. Light frosts near its close severely threatened it, yet it escaped "with a shiver," as one has remarked.

September was quite cool throughout, and very dry during the first half, while the frosts about the middle injured the corn crop, so backward this year, very severely.

October was even still more disagreeable, if not unfavorable, with its cold clouds and rough winds, the weather better befitting the month of Novem-

ber than October; while *November* was as remarkable for its mildness and agreeability; yet there was a scanty supply of water in this month.

In short, the year in some respects was quite unfavorable for the farmer, the corn crop giving a light yield of sound grain, though other crops came in as well as usual, except, perhaps, fruits. There was frost in some localities in every month, and only sixty-six days passed in succession without frost here.

If the reader would learn further particulars in regard to the weather of this region the present year, than can be obtained from the above, and the following table, a somewhat full account of it may be found in previous numbers of the *Farmer*.

The following table shows the highest and lowest temperature of each month, and the mean temperature, and also the mean temperature at sunrise, noon, and sunset. The dash, (thus, –26°) indicates below zero.

TABLE OF TEMPERATURE, 1859.

	Min. Temp.	*Max. Temp.*	*Mean Temp.*	*Mean at Sunrise.*	*Mean at Noon.*	*Mean, Sunset.*
January,	–26°	44°	24.48°	19.55°	28.16°	25.90°
February,	4	53	29.44	23.64	33.32	29.71
March,	4	54	37.14	34.00	41.71	39.51
April,	27	71	42.94	38.40	47.73	46.05
May,	35	86	57.31	47.20	65.52	59.49
June,	34	92	62.95	47.47	68.83	61.90
July,	44	96	67.53	57.71	75.81	65.68
August,	40	86	66.31	57.78	73.55	63.13
September,	34	75	57.15	48.43	63.57	58.87
October,	23	75	45.63	38.35	51.09	47.61
November,	23	66	41.30	35.27	45.03	42.70
December,	–18	66	22.11	18.94	27.07	23.55
Year,	–26	96	46.19	38.89	51.82	47.43

The table next following gives the number of days of wind from the various quarters from which it has blown during each month the past year. Under the head of *calm* are placed those days in which the wind was very light and unsteady, and the currents constantly changing, as well as when a breeze was imperceptible. It also shows the number of Auroras and halos.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF DAYS OF WIND FROM DIFFERENT QUARTERS IN 1859.

	N. W.	*N.*	*N. E.*	*S. E.*	*S.*	*S. W.*	*Calm.*	*Auroras.*	*Halos.*
January,	10	3	5		1½	9½	2	3	3
February,	5	2	7	1	1	7	5	3	3
March,	10	1	5	2½	4	8½		2	6
April,	15	2	7	2	1	3			3
May,	11		2		8	7	3		2
June,	2		9		6	9	4		4
July,	11½		5	1	2	7½	4		4
August,	8		8	2	6	7		3	2
September,	11		6		1	9	3	5	3
October.	15	1	3		1	10	1	5	2
November,	10	1½	3	1½	6	6	2	1	3
December,	10	5	6		4	2	4		5
Total,	118½	15½	66	10	41½	85½	28	22	36
Average,	9 5-6	1 7-24	5½	5-6	3 11-24	7⅛	2⅓	1 5-6	3

The next table gives the number of days that were clear, cloudy, tolerably clear, &c., together with the number of storms of rain and snow, and amount. Under the head of *tolerably clear* are placed those days in which the sun shone most of the time, though clouds abounded, and under the head of *quite cloudy*, those in which clouds predominated, though there were several hours of sun.

TABLE OF STORMS, CLEAR AND CLOUDY DAYS, &c., 1859.

	Clear.	*Cloudy.*	*Tolerably Clear.*	*Quite Clear.*	*Falls of Snow.*		*Rain.*	
					No.	*Inches.*	*No.*	*Inches.**
January,	9	14	5	3	6	20	4	4.30
February,	4	11	7	6	5	13	5	2.77
March,	4	12	8	7	1	5	9	5.82
April,	6	7	9	8	Squalls, sleet.		6	2.51
May,	12	9	5	5			11	4.03
June,	5	8	10	7			15	7.63
July,	10	5	11	5			10	2.54
August,	14	3	7	7			11	4.36
September,	7	4	11	8			11	4.54
October,	8	6	10	7	A few flakes.		6	1.90
November,	7	6	9	8	3	2	6	2.70
December,	10	12	4	4	8	20	5	3.57
Total,	99	96	96	75	23	60	99	46.67
Average,	8¼	8	8	6¼			8¼	3.89

There were also *seventeen thunder-showers*, as follows: 1 in May, 6 in June, 5 in July, 3 in August, 1 in October, and 1 in November.

Springfield, Mass., Jan. 2, 1860. J. A. A.

* The statistics in regard to the amount of rain, are taken from the record kept at the U. S. Armory in this city, by S. ADAMS, Esq., clerk of the Armory, to whose kindness I am indebted for their insertion here.

A SILVER PITCHER GIVEN TO A FARMER!

Swords, gold-headed canes, plate and other testimonials of gratitude and respect, have been presented to "public benefactors," from time immemorial—for aught we know; at any rate, we have often read and heard of such things. But we find in the New York *Tribune* an account of a presentation, that strikes us as something new, so far as the character of the services rewarded are concerned. A silver pitcher and two goblets have been presented to a farmer, in recognition of his services as a farmer.

Many years ago, a poor young man bought a farm near Seneca Lake, New York. Much of the soil was a cold, heavy clay. As fast as he could, he drained off the water, put in the manure, and demonstrated, by example, that farming may be made profitable. In 1835 he imported patterns of drain tile, and commenced his experiments in this line of improvement with tiles made by the slow process of hand labor. Machinery was soon used in their manufacture, and in 1851 he had laid sixteen miles of tile drains. Finding that the more he drained, and the more he manured, the richer he grew, he ventured to recommend his course to other farmers, and became a frequent contributor to the agricultural journals of New York. In one of his articles, written the 17th of December last, and published in the *Rural New-Yorker*, in reply to some strictures on his system of "high feeding," he says:

"I will state that I can with more certainty calculate on three tons of hay per acre, now, than I could on one, thirty-six years ago, and I can safely calculate on one acre in pasture feeding more stock, and much better, than three would have

done at that time, while I can almost always make one-half more grain of any kind than I did then —of oats or corn far more than double. High feeding and high manuring did all this."

By affixing his own signature to these publications, the name of JOHN JOHNSTON has long been familiar to the readers of agricultural papers, and he is sometimes called the "Great Tile Drainer," of New York.

The presentation of a service of plate to such a man, by a number of the most respectable citizens of a great State, we regard as an event of interest to farmers generally, as indicating a willingness on the part of the public to honor those who introduce improvements in the cultivation of the soil, and to admit them to rank among the benefactors of the race.

The *Tribune* gives the following description of the articles presented to Mr. Johnston:

"The testimonial consists of a massive silver pitcher and two goblets, on all of which are engraved and embossed appropriate agricultural emblems. On one shield of the pitcher is represented a reaping field as it appears in our day, on another a mowing machine at work, and the third bears the following inscription:

Presented to JOHN JOHNSTON, in recognition of his services to the Agriculture of New York, by his fellow-citizens.
JOHN A. KING, and 19 others.

The goblets bear the representation of men laying tiles for drains, a ditch-digging machine, tile machine, and all manner of small tools used in 'the stupid burial of crockery'—as an English lord was pleased to term tile draining a few years ago."

For the New England Farmer.

MODES OF TAXING PROPERTY.

MR. EDITOR:—Your correspondent R. M., asks your interposition as a legislator, to modify the law, as to the assessment of taxes. I do not understand him to say that property should not be taxed equally and proportionately wherever it is found. It would certainly be difficult to legislate that one thousand dollars should be taxed in the possession of one man more or less than in the possession of another. Nor would the inequality be relieved by shifting the burden of taxation from the mortgager to the mortgagee, because all this would be guarded against by the mortgagee when he received his mortgage.

If a provision could be made for a full disclosure of property by those who hold it, under a penalty of a forfeiture of the property, if not disclosed for the purposes of taxation, this would be as effectual a mode of bringing it out as could be adopted by law. I am of the opinion that the poor man's homestead not exceeding one thousand dollars in value should be exempted from taxation, as well as from debt. This would greatly lessen the number of persons liable to be taxed, and leave the burden upon the holders of property, who are the persons mainly benefited by taxes being paid. P.

January, 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

DITCHING PLOWS---TILE DRAINS.

MR. EDITOR:—In an article on drainage published in the *N. E. Farmer* some time since, I find the following remark: "Care should be taken not to move with loaded teams on the surface of the field so as to jar the tile from their places." Now I wish to inquire if this is so? Can it be that tile are so easily displaced as this? I should think that perhaps they might be disturbed in this way when laid in swamps, but I had supposed upon uplands it was not needful to use such precautions. I have never yet used tile, but have recently laid a considerable amount of stone drains, and having found these to be rather costly, I have been thinking of giving tiles a trial.

Have any of the new ditching plows yet been used in this vicinity? I mean such as are described in the *Register of Rural Affairs* for 1860. Can they be obtained in Boston? if so, where? and at what price? and which patterns?

One great reason why drain tile are not more used is, because the makers charge an exorbitant profit upon them; they are sold in England for about one-half the price which is demanded here. If some one in this vicinity would go into the manufacture of tiles, and sell them at a moderate price, he might do well for himself, and greatly increase the use of tiles. W. D.

Jan. 3, 1860.

REMARKS.—If tiles are well laid as low as they ought to be, viz.: between *three* and *four* feet below the surface, we cannot believe that there is danger of displacing them by passing over them with loaded teams.

We are not aware that the ditching plows are either made, sold or used in this vicinity. Drain tile is sold at too high a price, but we hope the multiplication of machines will reduce it. A simple machine will soon be furnished at a very low price, and one that can be put in use upon any farm where clay is found, and the tile made by the most inexperienced persons. So we are told.

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—At a recent meeting of the above society, the following persons were chosen officers for the ensuing year:

President—Wm. F. Estes, Dover.
Secretary—Aaron Young, Dover.
Treasurer—Frederic Smyth, Manchester.
Directors—Dana Woodman, North Hampton; Nathaniel White, Concord; Alfred Hort, Durham; John Preston, New Ipswich; John S. Walker, Claremont.

OHIO FARMER.—This paper enters upon the new year with some typographical improvements. It is a sterling journal,—its editor having a good heart as well as an intelligent head. He is one of the BROWNS, surnamed THOMAS, and does his work up B—— in the most thorough manner. Long life and prosperity to himself and his paper.

TALL CROWFOOT, OR BUTTERCUPS.

Philosophers say there is some compensation for everything in life that we are accustomed to look upon as an ill. That even a jumping toothache, or a nip of the sciatic nerve, is not an unqualified evil,—that around it or behind it, somewhere, there lie crumbs of comfort that compensate in some measure for the pangs inflicted. He who has been cut off from the world by sickness, and daily looks out from his window upon the moving multitudes as they go up and down in their pursuits, will be surprised to learn how many *compensations* for him there are, upon reading Bulwer's "*Consolations in a Sick Room.*"

So it is in another kingdom. The farmer considers many things as *evils*, which, properly understood, may be found to be blessings. He looks out upon his broad fields and meadows, covered with buttercups, and sighs that they are not all sweet clover, purple-blooming herds grass or silky red-top, forgetting how his children gather the cups, or chase the butterflies among the despised but showy plants—or how lovingly his city visitors look upon the gay scene, and listen to the song of the bob-o-links that rear their young and sing to each other amidst this world of flowers.

This is an introduced weed; it is common in New England and in New York State. There is another species, growing about one foot high, while this which we have illustrated grows *two* feet high. Both species are popularly known as buttercups, and in some localities are so abundant in meadows, as to appear at a distance like an unbroken sheet of golden yellow. On account of their acid juice, cattle do not eat them in their fresh state, nor do they care much for them when dried. About a dozen other species are to be found in the woodland and meadows, and a few aquatic ones in streams and ponds. It is a rank and hardy plant, has become quite a nuisance to farmers, and ought to be eradicated upon its first appearance in their grounds. It is said that beggars in Europe use it for the sake of making their faces red, or exciting ulcers, and thereby exciting sympathy.

The reader will find both species illustrated and more fully explained in *Darlington's Weeds and Useful Plants.*

Fig. 3, in the illustration, snows the whole plant. Fig. 4, is an enlarged flower, divided, to show the distinct parts. Fig. 5, is a head of seed. Fig. 6, the seed or fruit.

☞ A family broil spoils the best broth.

For the New England Farmer.

OUR WINTER RESIDENT BIRDS.

BY S. P. FOWLER.

Upon noticing a flock of snow birds, gathering their scanty subsistence, during a severe snowstorm in the depth of winter, the thought arises in the mind, how do these beautiful little specimens of ornithology get a living? and why do they not all perish? Upon looking over our wintry landscape, and observing the Gos Hawk, we are led to inquire why this vigorous bird does not use its wings for a few hours, in reaching a more temperate climate, instead of beating over our frozen fields and meadows, striving to capture an unsuspicious Tree Sparrow, or seize a careless field mouse. In regard to the first question, how our winter resident birds obtain their food, we would remark, that the Finches feed principally upon the seeds of weeds and grass, and find an abundant supply. The Partridges and Grouse feed in winter upon seeds, berries, and the larva of insects, when they can be obtained; and when these fail, in consequence of deep snows, they resort to various trees to obtain their buds, carefully selecting those that give promise of fruit. Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Creepers and Titmice, that feed principally upon the larva of insects, which perforate trees, or lie concealed under their

bark, or in other retreats, can carry on these operations in winter, in procuring food, as well as in summer. Jays have a habit of collecting and hoarding grain, nuts and acorns in hollow trees, or between layers of bark, by which they are enabled to pass the winter comfortably. Crows, in cold weather, visit the seacoast for food, and during the late severe weather, great numbers of these sagacious birds were seen winging their way from the interior to the ocean for supplies, which this great reservoir of food is ever ready to furnish all animated nature. The splendid Pine Grosbeak from Hudson's Bay, which sometimes visits us in severe winters like the present, never loses its daily food, by finding its nuts too hard to crack, or the White Winged Cross Bill its dinner, by finding a pine cone so close, that it cannot pick it open with its crooked bill. The birds of prey, including the Shrikes, sometimes find it difficult to obtain a living in winter, and resort to low and poor fare, which they would disdain to eat in summer. Like all rapacious animals when hungry, they become bold, and exhibit great temerity, and contrive by rapine and plunder to live through the cold season.

In reply to the question, how do our birds effectually resist the extreme cold of our winters, we would say by their being clad in new, clean garments, without rents or seams, and in many instances provided with a covering for their legs and feet, that require no weekly darning or a patch.

Reader, did you ever see a White Owl? You may see several in some winters, if you are abroad, and your eyes are open to objects of nature. If you have seen and examined this fine bird, we think you must admit, that it possesses a perfect winter garment; you noticed that not a particle of its body was to be seen, except the ends of its claws and bill; you may however have discovered a little, thin spot under each wing; this seeming defect is obviated by the bird's pressing more closely its pinions to its body. These bare spots under the wings of all birds, are necessary. In a summer's day, oppressed with heat, we strip off our clothes; our bird cannot divest itself of its warm coat, when suffering from heat, but it can effectually cool itself by raising its wings, and admitting the fanning breeze. Like the Owls, nearly all the species of Grouse inhabiting cold climates, are feathered on their legs and toes. Still, it is a wonder with many, how our small birds can keep warmth in their little bodies, during a cold winter's night. But they are furnished with a warm coat of feathers, which in some birds are of great length; as, for instance, the Chickadee, which, when plucked, only discovers to us an atom of ornithology, but its little heart beats more rapidly, and its blood flows more quickly, than in birds of larger organization. Many birds resort at nightfall to swamps in the forest, and seek shelter in an evergreen tree, where, nestling on its branch with their heads under their wings, or buried in feathers on their breasts, they are rocked to sleep by the sweet lullaby of the wind, murmuring through the pine, and thus spend the long and dreary night. Quails, living together in families, upon the approach of night, provide a shelter for themselves during a snow storm, by seeking some rising ground swept by the wind, and beneath a bush or bramble form a close circle, with their heads outwards, and by their mutual warmth, resist the effect of the cold.

Thus we see a benevolent Creator has provided our winter birds with clothing sufficient to enable them to withstand the most inclement weather, and with instincts to enable them to procure their food, and to prompt them to place themselves in the best positions to secure the greatest amount of comfort and safety. Those that are gregarious in their habits, are lively and social, and there is no better exhibition of winter pastime, than a flock of Snow Buntings in a snowstorm. Skating and coasting by a bevy of boys and girls make some approach to it; the youth in their sports are the most noisy, but the frequent call, and low, suppressed, tender twitter of the birds, evince the more quiet joy. But, notwithstanding the careful provisions of nature, birds perish in considerable numbers during a severe winter. These are probably old birds, some of whom may perhaps have lost their power of moulting, and are compelled to wear their summer dresses, or young birds not in full plumage. Mr. Audubon speaks of killing a female White-headed Eagle, which, judging from its worn and faded plumage, he supposed had lost the power of casting its feathers, in consequence of its age.

In answer to the question, why our winter birds do not seek a warmer climate, we would reply, it involves the difficult subject of migration, and would occupy more time and space than can now be afforded.

Danversport, Jan. 10, 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

"BUTTER IN WINTER."

Thus is headed an inquiry in your valued journal, Messrs. Editors, over date of November 27, from a correspondent at New Bedford. Allow me to aid him all in my power. From a most notable housewife in this vicinity, I obtain this teaching. After milking and straining, at once place the milk obtained in a clean kettle, and scald it well over the fire. Do not bring it to a boil, but simply scald it gradually, but well. Place it away for skimming, in a room of moderate temperature. When ready to churn, warm it by setting the vessel that holds it, (if earthen,) in hot water. Otherwise, bring the cream to a point that holds no chill. Rinse the churn in boiling water before using. Drain out, and then "up and at it." In a short time the result will be reached. I must remark this process never has failed, from milkings not very heavily oppressed with cream, the food of the cows being ordinary meadow hay, with no other change whatsoever. To obtain a bright or golden color, (so difficult to be had in winter on any feed,) take a few orange carrots, scrape them fine, immerse, and soak in blood-warm water till the color be fully extracted. A portion of this, according to color desired, may be put in the cream when churning. It is wholly harmless in character, and not so repulsive to many, as "annotto," an article doubtless well known. This process in winter, will secure the coming of butter, in less (at least not over) 30 minutes' churning in a warm room, and if coloring be used as designated, it will give it of a pure June tint.

OAK HILL.

For the New England Farmer.

FARM OF NINE AND ONE-HALF ACRES.

REPLY TO INQUIRIES OF "C. L. W."

MR. EDITOR:—"C. L. W." would like my advice as to buying a farm of 9½ acres.

It is difficult to advise people that you do not know. Before advising a person, you want to know his capacity for doing the particular thing he asks advice upon. If "C. L. W." likes gardening, if he likes to weed beds and be doubled up like a jack-knife during the hot part of the days of May, June and July, weeding his beds, picking his strawberries, killing the bugs on his vines, &c.; if he can graft, bud and transplant, so that nine-tenths of what he plants will live and do well; if he loves to market small articles, such as a garden produces—if he loves busy work all the time, late and early, then he will make a good gardener.

If there is a good market near at hand for his garden produce, he may make it profitable. The apple and pear trees will not help him much the first ten years, yet they would suit me much better than the other half of his garden.

If "C. L. W." has no taste for the work himself—if the market is distant or doubtful, then my friend would want capital to carry it on, rather than to expect to make capital from it.

I am one of those farmers who believe in a good large farm. Were I a young man, and going to farming for a living, I should want from 100 to 200 acres of land. But I am not one of those that think that I could make more money from a little farm than a great one. I believe that I can pay for a farm really worth $5000, if I had to make the money from the farm, quicker than I would from a $1000 farm. A man wants about the same cost in building, and about as many tools, to carry on a small farm, as he does to carry on a large one. If it will not pay to hire help to farm, then you had better not farm for yourself, but work out.

The great failure of those who have large farms often is, that they do not work help enough. They do not put in the crops. A man who has ten acres plants one acre; a man with one hundred acres, should plant ten acres by the same rule.

I believe your doctrine is, Mr. Editor, that a man should not cultivate any more land than he can manure well; but I do not believe in that doctrine. I believe if a man buys a worn-out farm, as it is called, the best way is to tear up a good lot of it and get something to put on it. At first his crops may be light, but they will increase if he continues to cultivate in that way, and put the products back on the land, that is, if he spends the produce on the farm.

But I have got far away from my starting-point; it was gardening and an orchard that I started on, and not a farm. I never loved gardening, and I only raise in my garden what I want in my family. I will not weed carrots for my cattle. I prefer to raise hay, corn, wheat and oats for them. ED. EMERSON.

Hollis, Dec. 24, 1859.

HOW TO PAINT NEW TIN ROOFS.—Scrape off the rosin as clean as possible, and sweep the roofs. Wash it with strong soda water, and let it remain until a shower of rain has fallen upon it. Give it a coat of pure Venetian red, mixed with one-third boiled and two-thirds raw linseed oil; the second coat may be any color desired. The soda water dissolves the rosin remaining after scraping; and it destroys the greasy nature of the solder, and that of the new tin, so that there will be sufficient "grip" for the paint to adhere firmly. The pure Venetian red is one of the most durable paints for metallic roofs, but is often rejected on account of its color. The above mode of painting will set aside this difficulty.—*Scientific American.*

LEGISLATIVE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

[REPORTED FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER BY THOS. BRADLEY.]

The second meeting of the present series of the *Legislative Agricultural Society* was held in the Representatives' Hall at the State House on Monday evening. There was a full attendance of members and others, and the remarks of those taking part in the discussion were frequently applauded.

The meeting was called to order by HON. SIMON BROWN, Chairman of the Executive Committee, who announced HON. JOHN A. GOODWIN, of Lowell, Speaker of the House of Representatives, as Chairman of the evening.

On assuming the chair, Mr. Goodwin said that the subject for discussion was, "*What will tend to make agriculture profitable and pleasant as a pursuit?*" He did not feel himself competent to discuss the question as it ought to be discussed, as he had not had time to devote to the consideration of it on account of other public business, yet it was a subject of such vital importance to our Commonwealth that he felt it his duty to give his views on it, notwithstanding they would be necessarily somewhat rambling in their character.

He considered that the principal way in which farming might be made both profitable and pleasant, would be for agriculturists to till smaller farms, and instil more of the social element into their households. The population in the farming districts of our State is so sparse, that young people who have once been to the city become dissatisfied to remain at home, from the fact that in consequence of the great size of farms there is no sociability or amusement around home.

Mr. Goodwin then spoke of the County of Middlesex, which he considered a fair sample of the State, and said that there were 4500 farms in that county, and yet there was two-thirds of the land which was not occupied for any purpose at all; there were men in the heart of the county who obtain a living solely by hunting; even in Concord and Lincoln, the latter one of the best farming towns in the Commonwealth, there are a number of men whose living is gained in this way. This two-thirds of the waste land, the speaker said, was

not devoted to profitable wood raising, as even to raise wood, he considered, was profitable at the prices now obtained for it. He recommended that to make our farming population more dense we should have small farms and more of them, and this would be the first great step in making agriculture both profitable and pleasant.

The honorable gentleman said that, if only half the waste land in Middlesex County were put to use, it would make 1000 farms of 56 acres each, and with proper attention this would be as productive land as any in the county. There is great uneasiness, said the speaker, on the part of farmers' boys to get away from home, as their secluded position there did not give them a chance for that social improvement the human mind naturally seeks.

In alluding to his advocacy of contracting the length and breadth of farms, Mr. Goodwin urged that the depth should be extended by deep plowing, which, in this section, was too much neglected, the average depth of plowing not exceeding five inches. This would hit the right remedy, and be undoubtedly profitable, as notwithstanding many other doctrines which had been advocated had been "run into the ground," it was not so in agriculture.

Mr. Goodwin said there were lots of land where deep plowing would not do, but he thought that in the large majority of farms the plowing was not more than half deep enough. He then spoke of manure, and said that the making of more of this was essential to profitable farming, yet our farmers mostly let the road washings, rotten wood, decayed leaves, soap-suds, and numerous other fertilizers, go to waste at their very doors, for the want of a knowledge of their value. It is not in actual barn manure, said the speaker, that the farmer has to use economy in collecting, but in all those fertilizers that are so numerous around a farm-house.

The speaker illustrated his argument in favor of deep plowing by speaking of a man in Haverhill, who, by turning up the ground from a depth of 15 inches, and economy in his collecting manure, and properly mixing it, had raised his corn produce in one year from 40 to 90 bushels to the acre. The common expression, said he, when you attempt to explain the importance of attention to the collection of fertilizers to farmers, is, "I cannot afford to bother," when this very bother not only is a sure source of profit, but with that a pleasure. He did not believe in the great mass of chemical compounds brought into the market as fertilizers were of any good, and he was inclined to pronounce many of them humbugs.

Pigs, said Mr. Goodwin, should be the hardest workers on the farm, and his father differed with the majority of farmers in thinking the pork a secondary consideration to the amount of work a pig would do in working up the manure heap and making compost. Our farmers, said he, devote too much land to pasturage, which, from want of care, was poor and unprofitable, and from this he argued that smaller farms, more deeply worked and well manured, would be the most profitable to the owner. Mr. Goodwin said that in his opinion there was nothing better to make farming more pleasant than good gardens, and he spoke of the attention that was paid to this in Concord, Wayland and Danvers, and said nothing paid better or saved so much in household expenses. An agricultural missionary, said the speaker, cannot find a better text to preach upon than family gardens.

Mr. Goodwin closed his remarks by saying that our village schools would be far better if farming was better managed, and he thought this bar to obtaining a better education was one of the principal reasons for this longing on the part of young people to leave home.

SIMON BROWN, editor of the *New England Farmer*, was then called on to speak. He said he felt encouraged by the interest that was manifested in regard to the subject under discussion. Two things operated as a hindrance to good and pleasant farming; one was, that agriculture was looked on as an *unprofitable* employment, and the other, that it was not so *respectable* as other occupations. He had travelled extensively among the farmers of this State, and he knew that there was no better plan to find this out than by conference with women, and in conversing with them it will be found that nearly nine-tenths of the girls would prefer a man for a husband in almost any other business than that of farming.

The question as to how farming may be made profitable and pleasant is not merely of importance to us, but to those who are to succeed us; and in considering the matter, our first object is to secure happiness, and then profit. The man, said Mr. Brown, is the most happy who has a farm of fifty acres, paid for, with a house and necessary farm buildings on it, and with "a little more than will make both ends meet." He can go abroad, and know when he returns that he has a *home* with all its comforts, that he has a roof to shelter him, a comfortable bed to lay down on, and a table bountifully provided, around which his wife and children gather with real pleasure; he is near a well populated village, and has a permanent home and permanent employment, thus making him contented and happy. There are few farmers of this class who do not lay by money, and who have not an opportunity to educate a son at college and thus supply the cities with men who rarely fail to become prominent in some of the professions. He contended that there would not be found more than one farmer who became a

bankrupt to an hundred in any other occupation, and this fact alone was the strongest argument as to the profits of farming.

In conclusion, Mr. Brown advocated the support of farmers' clubs, and other gatherings of a similar description, to infuse new life and vigor into the family, and thus to make farming both profitable and pleasant.

Mr. WETHERELL was the next speaker, and he took the same view of the subject as did Mr. Gardner, of Swansey, at the last meeting, and argued that farms were like factories, if left idle neither would pay. He said that the argument in favor of deep plowing would not apply to the majority of farms in the State, as the land would not bear it. He urged that a young man must love his business, and then must be industrious, and study to make it pay.

Mr. GARDNER, of Swansey, differed from Mr. Brown in relation to the matrimonial inclinations of the ladies, and argued that every kind of business, properly conducted, should be considered honorable. One great trouble in driving sons of farmers from home is to be found in the custom which prevails among parents of telling their children how hard a farmer's life is, and again in not teaching young men the value of money, and the importance of saving it. Again, the speaker said, there is great fault in not selecting good seeds, and not taking the proper time to gather them. He spoke of farmers in his section who had planted corn which probably was not perfectly ripe when it was put in the crib, and consequently, they had to plant again, thus incurring unnecessary expense and loss of time. He spoke at length on the importance of paying more attention to this matter.

Mr. PROCTOR, of Danvers, considered that whatever was profitable was pleasant, and those who labor have this in view. Profit, said he, should not be the only aim of the Society, but it should be also to make young men good citizens, and he felt proud to say that in no class were they so numerous as among farmers.

He said that there were 30 neighbors of his who had on an average not more than 20 acres each, who cleared, over and above expenses, from $300 to $500 per year, and these were among the best citizens in the place. This profit was not made by shallow but by thorough cultivation, by attention to manure, putting on from 5 to 10 cords to the acre, and the result being a yield of from $50 to $100 per acre, a year, profit. These men, said he, plow 10 inches deep, and cultivate their fields like a garden, and do not make their money by stock raising, or note shaving. In speaking of the ladies, he said he was sorry to hear there was any one so unwise as to prefer a man of another occupation as a husband, to a farmer, as, in by far the majority of cases, the farmer in declining life was in better circumstances than any other class of men.

Hon. N. EDDY, of Oxford, said he thought we had too indiscriminate recommendation of deep plowing, as the soil would not bear it. The trouble was that our people undertake to farm too far from a market, as in the case of the sale of hay by some farmers, it will cost all the hay is worth to transport the fertilizers obtained from the proceeds of the sale. Mr. Eddy considered that the best way to make our farms generally profitable was to pay attention to the fattening of stock, bought in other States. In support of his argument, he called attention to the profits made by graziers in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, on cattle bought in the West. He condemned the attention that was too much devoted to rough soils, and closed his remarks by urging farmers to keep themselves free from the hazards of speculation.

Mr. ASA SHELDON, of Wilmington, referred briefly to the discussion of the subject at the former meeting, and expressed his pleasure that the article from the pen of Mr. Pinkham had waked up our farmers. He amusingly alluded to the argument in favor of a *ten hour system* in farming, and related an anecdote of his experience in road making, which highly amused the meeting. Farming, said he, will never be either profitable or pleasant, unless it is done freely, and it is to create a love for it, that we should aim. He thought Mr. Brown had told the truth about the ladies, but he thought that if a girl had scruples about feeding poultry, making cheese and butter, and doing other household duties in a farm-house, he would advise her never to give her hand to a farmer, as, without pleasure, farming cannot be profitable.

Mr. STOUGHTON, of Gill, thought there was nothing more profitable connected with farming than stock raising, but he would say, that it should be choice stock, as this cost no more to raise than the common, and returned a very much larger profit. He had an order in his pocket, then, for two yearling Alderney heifers, to go to New Orleans, and he was to receive $125 each, for them, delivered here. A market is what makes farming profitable, and here Congress can help us, by a favorable tariff; but to make farming profitable and pleasant, each man must figure for himself, and study his own farm, seeing what he can raise best on it, and for which he can find the best market.

Mr. BUCKMINSTER explained that he did not mean to advocate the strict application of the ten hour system to farming, but wished to have the farmer shown how he could do the work of sixteen hours in ten, by mathematical demonstration, and thus increase his profits.

Mr. R. S. FAY, of Lynn, thought education should be attended to, more than it now is in the

case of the farmer; with the best common schools in the world, the farmer's son had nothing done to fit him for following the profession of his father, while he needed more instruction than a boy destined for commercial pursuits. He advocated the introduction of works on the nature of soils, geology and botany, if no other works on similar subjects, in our common schools, and the speaker said he would go further and advocate the establishing of a high school of agriculture in every county in the State, and have young men taught until they go on farms, and then there would be no fear but they would do well. Mr. Fay said that looking on farming in a political point of view, he considered farmers who own their own land the most conservative men alive, and he would sooner leave his fortune in the custody of a farming community, enjoying such advantages as he hoped to see, than any other class. He hoped the present Legislature would take the first step to improve the means of education for the farmer, and thus commence what will eventually benefit our Commonwealth more than anything else.

It was announced that the subject for discussion at the next meeting would be, "*Fruit, and Fruit Culture,*" and that Hon. MARSHALL P. WILDER was expected to preside.

On motion of Mr. Brown, the meeting then adjourned to Monday next, at 7 o'clock.

P. S. Ladies were also invited to attend.

For the New England Farmer.

THE CREEPER BREED OF SHEEP.

MR. EDITOR:—I have noticed in the *Farmer*, of late, some interesting items in relation to sheep. But there is one variety of the sheep kind which has not been mentioned, to my knowledge, in the colums of your paper. I have reference to the *creeper* (or Ancon) breed of sheep. I would like to inquire, through the *Farmer*, if they are as profitable to keep as the common sheep? What are the relative properties and qualities of them, compared with other sheep; and also, the relative productiveness in wool and lambs? Are they orderly and peaceable, with regard to fences; or, like the native, "long legged sheep," will they leave the pasture, at any moment "the fit comes on them," in quest of better feed? Where can this breed of sheep, pure bloods, be procured, and at what price?

If you, Mr. Editor, or any of your kind readers, having had some experience in keeping two or more breeds of sheep, and especially the *creeper breed*, will answer the above inquiries, and give any other information concerning them that may be deemed requisite, a favor will not only be conferred on me alone, but, I trust, on many others interested in the subject. SAMUEL TRUE.

East Salisbury, Mass., Jan. 4, 1860.

REMARKS.—We have no knowledge of this breed of sheep.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

HOW TO SET THE TOPS OF FRUIT TREES.

Much useful information has been published about digging large holes, placing the roots, filling in the dirt, mulching, &c. But I write to suggest how to set the tops, or rather, how not to set them. Never set a tree leaning to the northeast, because if you do, the sun will shine hot on the upper side and kill the bark. Let me say to the man with saw and pruning-knife, let alone the limbs that shade the trunk in the hottest part of the day. Any old orchard where trees thus lean, will furnish proof that what I say is of importance. Reader, be sure to plant trees, plant and feed them well, and you shall eat the fruit of your doings, and your children will rise up and call you blessed. ELIPHALET WEEKS.

Chatham, N. H., 1860.

P. S. What will kill the scale or bark louse, and not injure the tree? Lye kills a part, but not all.

REMARKS.—We use soap suds, and have no trouble from the bark louse. Try whale oil soap, rubbed in gently with a brush.

FRENCH PHEASANT FOWLS.

I would like to know if "P.," or any of your correspondents, have kept any of the French Pheasant fowls? I have had them about a year, and like them very much. I was told they were imported from France, a few years ago. French or American, they are the most beautiful fowls I have ever seen. They weigh thirteen pounds per pair, are white, with a bronze or golden cast, very yellow legs, small wings and tail, and most of them have a double comb. I have never seen one of them on a scaffold eight feet high, in the barn where they were kept through the winter. They are excellent layers—lay a good sized, very dark egg, and some of them are spotted like turkeys' eggs. They do not lay as young, and want to set more than the Spanish, but are easily broken up, if taken in season. They appear to be very hardy, and easy to raise. I have none to sell.

H. T. GATES.

New Worcester, Jan. 16, 1860.

PROBLEM.

Bought a farm April 1st, 1852, at $2,350. Paid down $200, and gave a mortgage for $2,150, to be paid $100 annually, with interest on the balance, till the whole is paid. How much has the sum of the payments amounted to, at annual interest on each payment, April 1st, 1860, and what will be the whole sum of the whole payments April 1st, 1873, at which time the odd $50 is to be paid with the last instalment of $100, provided each payment is kept at annual interest until April 1st, 1873? Will some of our friends who have given us so much light on the "Profits of Farming," (A. B., Barre, Vt., or T. J. Pinkham, for instance,) inform me whether said farm will ever be paid for from the farm, containing less than 60 acres of land, 150 miles from Boston, in the Green Mountain State? The purchaser is a youngerly man, with but $395 capital at purchasing, and does not like to make a failure, unless Mr. Pinkham is *very* sure he can't pay for it. P. J.

Jan., 1860.

HORN AIL.

I have a cow that was taken with the above disease about the middle of September last. I bored her horns and they discharged freely a number of weeks; meanwhile she seemed to do well, and gain her milk. Since then she will have spells of shrinking her milk, and will not eat, although I keep her horns open and they still discharge. If you, or any of your correspondents, can inform me what to do for her, you will confer a favor.

JEREMIAH EDDY.

Burrillville, R. I., Jan., 1860.

REMARKS.—The horn should never be bored without the advice of some person who understands the structure and disease of the animal. If the horn had not been bored, the offensive matter would probably have passed off through the nostrils. It is a dangerous and cruel practice to mutilate the horns. The probability is that the disease with which your cow is afflicted, is in some other organ rather than the horn.

—

SCALDS AND BURNS.

When a lad of seven years, I had the misfortune to scald one of my hands. This was in the month of September. Not wishing to make much ado about it, I went into the garden to lament my calamity, and being near a bed of beets, I, without knowing or thinking of any efficiency in them, picked a leaf and spread it over the affected part of my hand. Its cooling qualities were soon apparent, and I held it on until wilted, when I applied a fresh leaf, and so on, until I think I used the third in the course of half an hour. The result was, the fire was withdrawn from my hand, and no further inconvenience attended. I mention the fact for the benefit of other little boys, should they suffer from similar accidents, not objecting to larger ones trying it, if circumstances give them an opportunity. W. G. BACON.

Richmond, Jan., 1860.

—

CULTURE OF TOBACCO.

Will some of your correspondents who have experience in the culture of tobacco, give me information as to the soil best adapted, kind of manure, time and manner of planting, harvesting and drying. CHARLES W. DENHAM.

Mattapoisett, 1st mo., 1860.

REMARKS.—We really hope that they will not, Mr. Denham, because we think they will neither do yourself, or the public, a good service. To say nothing of what the culture of tobacco has done for Maryland and Virginia, we ask you to make careful inquiry, and learn whether it has been a blessing or a curse to our sister State, Connecticut?

—

LEGHORN FOWLS.

In the *Farmer* of Dec. 31, I note an inquiry about Leghorn hens. I would state for the benefit of your correspondent that I have kept this variety of fowls, pure, having none other, and find them all I wish. The eggs are larger, they are constant layers, and thus rarely, if ever, want to set. I have been particular to keep only pure white cocks, but many of my hens are Dominique and yellow color, which, however, I do not consider any objection, as, if anything, they are a little more hardy. Had I not given a part of my stock to my brother in the fall, I could have given your correspondent a correct account of receipt and expenditures for them.

New Bedford, 1860. R. C. ANTHONY.

—

COLORING MATTER FOR BUTTER.

In your paper of Jan. 14, I perceive that Mr. Everett, of Princeton, Mass., speaks of using the juice of carrots in making butter; I presume this is done to improve the color of the butter. I have known other coloring materials to be used for the same purpose. I cannot believe the use of any such material to be desirable. When cows are in good condition, generously fed, their butter will be yellow enough, without such coloring ingredients. I am surprised that any one who feels competent to instruct others in the making of butter, should think it necessary to use the juice of carrots to color it. My mother, who made as nice butter as I ever saw, some seventy pounds per week through the months of June, July and August, never used any such extra material to color the butter. SOUTH DANVERS.

Jan., 1860.

—

PIN WORMS IN HORSES.

Will any of your contributors give a remedy for pin worms in horses? Such a remedy would be of much value to very many of your readers.

Exeter, N. H., Jan., 1860. SUBSCRIBER.

REMARKS.—Mix a gill of clean wood ashes with cut feed, and give the horse every other day one feed for a week, and watch the result. If you observe small white streaks about the anus, continue the doses a week longer.

—

HOW TO GROW WATER CRESS.

Please give some directions for growing the common water cress, if not too much trouble.

MRS. S. M. GORDON.

REMARKS.—Gather a bunch of the cress and scatter it into a clear spring; the seeds will drop out and germinate, and by so doing annually will keep it perpetual.

AMERICAN STOCK JOURNAL.—As its title indicates, this publication does not discuss general agricultural topics, but is devoted exclusively to the interests of breeders and stock growers. It is edited by D. C. Linsley, and published by Saxton, Barker & Co., 25 Park Row, New York. A new volume commences with the year. Among the improvements apparent in the January number, we notice the enlargement of the Veterinary Department and the "Inaugural" of Dr. Dadd, of this city, whose services have been secured as conductor of this important department of the *Stock Journal*. He will answer any inquiries that subscribers may make in relation to the diseases of

their animals. Its pages are illustrated by views of stock, of methods of surgical operations in difficult cases, &c., and pedigrees of animals are inserted for subscribers free of charge. It is conducted with ability, and we believe with impartiality. Thirty-two double-column, large octavo pages are given monthly, for one dollar a year. We hardly needed the assurance of the publishers that this work, "commenced as an experiment, is now a success."

THE SOUNDS OF INDUSTRY.

I love the banging hammer,
The whirring of the plane,
The crashing of the busy saw,
The creaking of the crane,
The ringing of the anvil,
The grating of the drill,
The clattering of the turning-lathe,
The whirling of the mill,
The buzzing of the spindle,
The rattling of the loom,
The puffing of the engine,
And the fan's continuous boom—
The clipping of the tailor's shears,
The driving of the awl,
The sounds of busy labor—
I love, I love them all.

I love the plowman's whistle,
The reaper's cheerful song,
The drover's oft repeated shout,
As he spurs his stock along;
The bustle of the market-man,
As he hies him to the town,
The hallo from the tree-top,
As the ripened fruit comes down;
The busy sound of threshers,
As they clean the ripened grain,
And huskers' joke and mirth and glee,
'Neath the moonlight on the plain;
The kind voices of dairymen,
The shepherd's gentle call—
These sounds of active industry,
I love, I love them all.

For they tell my longing spirit
Of the earnestness of life;
How much of all its happiness
Comes out of toil and strife.
Not that toil and strife that fainteth
And murmureth on the way—
Not the toil and strife that groaneth
Beneath the tyrant's sway,
But the toil and strife that springeth
From a free and willing heart,
A strife which ever bringeth
To the striver all his part.

O, there is good in labor,
If we labor but aright,
That gives vigor to the day-time,
And a sweeter sleep at night,
A good that bringeth pleasure,
Even to the toiling hours—
For duty cheers the spirit
As the dew revives the flowers.

O, say not that Jehovah
Bade us labor as a doom;
No, it is his richest mercy,
And will scatter half life's gloom;
Then let us still be doing
Whate'er we find to do—
With an earnest, willing spirit,
With a strong hand *free and true.*

Cleveland Democrat.

PULVERIZED CULINARY HERBS.—The culinary herbs raised and put up by Mr. Howes Nourse, of Danvers, are sure to meet with favor, wherever introduced, from the fact that they are fresh, in neat packages, and, most important consideration of all, unadulterated, being raised on his own farm and put up under his own supervision.

For the New England Farmer.

PRUNING PINES.

MR. EDITOR:—In a late issne, I noticed an inquiry in regard to trimming young pines some twelve to fifteen years old. I would say in reply, that, in my opinion, it is best to let nature take its course, as a general thing. I have trimmed some not more than six or eight years old, to decided disadvantage, for this reason, if no other, When there comes rain, or ice on trees, the lower limbs bend to the ground, and brace up the trees; but when trimmed, the top bends over, perhaps to the ground, if loaded enough, and soon these trees will die out. I think larger trees might be trimmed to advantage, as fast as the limbs died, but not much faster. One thing is certain; unless you trim without cutting or bruising the bark elsewhere, you had better let them alone. Pines bleed very much when cut or injnred in any way. If a person would be as careful in trimming pines as in trimming fruit trees, then it might be of some use, but generally they will use an axe, and cnt and peel more bark than limbs; hence the injury. But to trim off with a saw all dead, dry limbs and the one year's growth of green ones at a time, and cut out the dead or dying trees, and be sure and not bruise those left to grow, I think would be an advantage to the owner, and, some fifty years hence, those who use this lumber will find that it will be free from dry, loose knots which would prove to be a decided advantage to the lumber. But do not trust those in your wood lot to trim, that you would not trust in your fruit orchard. Judgment and skill are as necessary in one place as the other. ALVAN WARD.

Ashburnham, Mass., 1860.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

TRANSACTIONS OF ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, for 1859. Published by order of the Society, December, 1859.

We have received from Hon. J. W. PROCTOR, a copy of this annual, containing the Address, by JAMES H. GREGORY; Reports of committees for the award of premiums; Remarks on Market Days —three of which were held during the year in different parts of the county; Reports on the Treadwell Farm; Essays; Treasurer's Report; Names of Officers and of New Members; List of Premiums; and Index. The 152 large pages which make up this noble pamphlet, afford space for something more than a mere skeleton of the Society's transactions; and it is so well occupied by details and particularities that we would recommend it as a model to other county societies, with the suggestion that more good might be effected by many were they to reduce the amount of premiums, and increase the money and labor expended on their annual Reports. The reports of the various committees for award of premiums occupy about two-thirds of the volume. Each committee presents a separate report, giving a brief account of the articles examined, the reasons for the awards made, and in many cases statements from the several competitors of the means and

process by which excellence and superiority have been attained. The committee on Underdraining occupy two pages with an introduction of the twenty-one pages which give in detail the experiments of six individuals, to three of whom the Society's premiums of $15, $10 and $5 were awarded for the best conducted experiments in underdraining land. The Address, Essays and other matter of the volume appear to be able and interesting. This report will not only instruct the reader, but it must prove a powerful incentive to committees and experimenters, who shall venture to figure in the future Transactions of Essex County.

For the New England Farmer.

POTATO BLIGHT AND ROT.

MR. BROWN:—If Mr. Barbor, of Warwick, could spend one half-hour in viewing with a microscope the insects, in myriads, upon seed potatoes, he would not speak of insect depredation on the potato plant as a "theory," but would admit the fact of exhausted vitality and poison, by their attack and ravages at the roots. The insects are there, and the eggs are hibernated through the winter in our cellars. They have been examined the past summer, by a microscopic and entomological demonstrator of the Scientific School at Cambridge, as found in their larva age, upon undecayed potatoes, suitable to cook or plant. He declares "he never saw such an insect before; he should think there was a million on each potato, enough to cover the whole outside all over." If Mr. Barbor understood their history and habits, he would know that they are coleoptera, in form, consequently suctorial and aquatic in their habits. The latter being the fact, shows him the reason why his potatoes in the high ground were less affected than on the low. The insects from aquatic habits increased more rapidly, and their ravages were more virulent, and the poison more easily spread into vine and tuber in his low moist ground than on that "ten feet higher." The "Prussian experiments at Potsdam, in 1852, 3 and 4," fully corroborate his own statements, between high and low grounds. Wet seasons and low moist grounds act upon "the poison," which Dr. Harris says "these insects communicate to plants." On high ground the attack is less virulent and the poison does not spread so rapidly and destructively as on moist ground, or in very wet seasons. This shows Mr. Barbor why the "location and soil" may and really does vary the action upon the predisposing cause as acted upon by the remote cause of changes of heat and cold, rain and sunshine, suddenly acting upon plants where the vitality is cut off.

THE FARMER BOY.

January 2, 1860.

GUANO.—Gen. Cadwalader, of Maryland, whose purchases of guano have amounted to $4000 a year, recommends a single application to worn out lands, naturally of good quality; and here its use should stop; it has served its purpose, and no second dressing of guano should ever be applied.

For the New England Farmer.

BUTTER AND MILK.

STATEMENT OF THE VALUE OF MILK AND THE SAME MADE INTO BUTTER.

GOV. BROWN,—*My Dear Sir:*—You will find herewith an account of my dairy for five months of the year 1859. It was my object to ascertain the relative profitableness of selling milk and making butter. The milk was weighed once a week, and the quantity obtained was considered the average of the week. The account shows a difference of $71,63 in favor of butter.

Very respectfully, GEO. S. BOUTWELL.

Groton, Jan. 12th, 1860.

BUTTER ACCOUNT.

MAY, 1859.	DR.	
To 4989 lbs. milk=249½ cans, at 18c	$44,91	
To making 211 lbs. butter, at 5½c	11,60	
To marketing	3,51—	$60,02
	CR.	
By 76 lbs. butter sold, at 28c	21,28	
By 135 lbs. butter sold, at 25c	33,75	
By skim-milk from 249½ cans, at 8c	19,96—	74,99
Balance in favor of butter		$14,97

JUNE.	DR.	
To 6670 lbs. milk=333½ cans, at 18c	$60,03	
To making 265¼ lbs. butter, at 5½c	13,27	
To marketing	3,56—	76,86
	CR.	
By 265¼ lbs. butter, at 25c	66,37	
By skim milk from 333½ cans, at 8c	26,68—	93,05
Balance in favor of butter		$16,19

JULY.	DR.	
To 7855 lbs. milk=392¾ cans, at 18c	$70,70	
To making 304¼ lbs. butter, at 5½c	16,73	
To marketing	3,84—	91,27
	CR.	
By 304¼ lbs. butter, at 25c	76,06	
By skim-milk from 392¾ cans, at 8c	31,42—	107,48
Balance in favor of butter		$16,21

AUG.	DR.	
To 7375 lbs. milk=368¾ cans, at 18c	$66,38	
To making 269¾ lbs. butter, at 5½c	14,84	
To marketing	4,05—	85,27
	CR.	
By 269¾ lbs. butter, at 25c	$67,44	
By skim-milk from 368¾ cans, at 8c	29,50—	96,94
Balance in favor of butter		$11,67

SEPT.	DR.	
To 5750 lbs. milk=287½ cans, at 18c	$51,75	
To making 228 lbs. butter, at 5½c	12,54	
To marketing	3,12—	67,41
	CR.	
By 228 lbs. butter, at 25c	$57,00	
By skim-milk from 287½ cans, at 8c	23,00—	80,00
Balance in favor of butter		$12,59
Total balance in favor of butter		$71,63

It required an average of 1 27-100 cans of milk to produce a pound of butter.

THE OAK TREE DISEASE.—At the December session of the Philadelphia Farmers' Club a gentleman present expressed the opinion that there was reason to fear the general destruction of the white oaks. "A close examination," he said, "will disclose more or less disease in nearly every tree—in some only at the extremity of the topmost branches, or leading shoots; while in others a general affection is more visible." We have not noticed any indications of disease among the oaks of this section.

THE WHITE SPRUCE FIR.

The Fir, Pine and Larch trees ought not to be entirely dispensed with about any of our farm-houses, or the houses in our villages or cities, wherever there is anything like a liberal surrounding of ground. They "constitute a perfectly natural genus or family, and next to the oak, are the most valuable of our timber trees but independently of their value in this respect, their beautiful foliage and magnificent appearance have at all times rendered them objects of admiration and attention."

Nothing relieves and beautifies the landscape in the winter like evergreens. They refresh the eye, protect the buildings and small shrubbery, and give the homestead a snug, social aspect. Their presence also brings up pleasant memories of summer and green fields, and all unconsciously, perhaps, to the beholder, promote healthful imaginations and a refreshing quiet and repose.

Those persons who have visited the enterprising and beautiful town of Greenfield, in this State, will at once appreciate our views. On passing through that village, the attention of the traveller, or visitor, is at once arrested by the large amount of ornamental shrubbery that is so tastefully arranged around the dwellings, and especially by the numerous fresh and symmetrical white pines that make nearly every dwelling he passes so inviting, that he feels as though he must go into the house itself, and have a chat with its intelligent inmates.

The *White Spruce Fir*, here represented, is a fine specimen of its class, and we hope will be sufficiently attractive to cause many persons to embellish their homestead with a few evergreen trees.

For the New England Farmer.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Resolved, That a system of agricultural education should be adopted and form a part of the educational system of the State —*Proceedings of Massachusetts Board of Agriculture.*

Massachusetts has always pursued a liberal policy with regard to agriculture, and her societies for its promotion, her board for its supervision, are strong memorials of her zeal in its advancement. These are very good pioneers in their way, but after all, they do not reach the greatest requirement existing, to secure the object of this legislative duty. In all enterprises, knowledge is the first or moving power, the lever necessary to success. The more and weightier the obstacles in the way of advancement, the more necessary the application of this power becomes.

When the forests of our State bowed before the tokens of civilization, it required no great skill to cause the unworn earth to produce abundant harvests. A running fire over the newly cleared fields, a little scattering of seed and scratching among the stumps, ended the farmer's toil until the wavy grain was ready for the harvest. There was no draining, no subsoiling, no composting of manures to be done then. The labor to secure a crop from a cleared field was light, soon over, and the remaining time would be appropriated to removing another strip of timber from the forest, to introduce a new field for the next year following. It did not require much mental effort to do this. Nature had ground down the rocks, and mingled their debris with mould that had been accumulating for ages, in proportion to meet her own wants, without the aid of the chemist. Time had opened water-courses, so that the surplus tribute of the clouds was borne away, giving no detriment to the plain or the hill-side. In fact, everything had been adapted to make the earth fertile in yielding supplies for the necessities of man.

Time and the continued droppings to which the soil has been subject, has worn down the capacities that the soil then possessed. How many loads of its former fertility have been carried to market in the grain, beef, pork, butter, cheese and wood that have been sold, would be the solution of a curious and startling problem, whose result would show that more fertility has been sold from every farm, in these articles, than the present value of the farms. It is very true, that in keeping a flock of sheep, or fattening a yoke of oxen, the farmer retains much that if judiciously applied, will enrich his land. But not all. If he sells a thousand pounds of wool, the wool is not all made of air and water. Or if a hundred sheep are fattened and taken to Boston or New York, it cannot but be supposed that the farmer who fattens them, disposes of a part of the fertility of his farm with them. So with grain and hay, if we sell them, we sell a portion of our grain fields or meadows with them.

Here, then, we see one cause, why the lands of some portions of Massachusetts do not produce, as tradition tells us they formerly did. The fertility

of her soil has been marketed in its produce. The very best portions of it have been taken away, leaving those which are hard, cold and barren. So cold and hard that surplus water no longer flows in natural channels, but stands, and chills, and sours and poisons the very ground it occupies. So very hard that it refuses the subduing influences of the sun and atmosphere.

It was a mistaken policy that led to this protracted and perpetual drainage of the soil without returning to it equivalents to keep up its harvest-yielding qualities. But the deed is done, and it only remains that man by intelligent labor restore what has been lost by ignorance and neglect.

We may well congratulate the farmers of Massachusetts, then, on the passage of the resolution at the head of this article, in the full expectation that the present Legislature, out of pure affection to the Commonwealth, whose interests it is bound to serve, will see the spirit of the resolution engrafted on our statutes. Then they will have done the noblest work for the farmers of the State that has ever been attempted.

The inquiry comes up, how this "system of agricultural education shall be adopted to form a part of the educational system of the State?"

Different ways of answering or fulfilling the spirit of the resolution will have their advocates. Some, very likely, will think that departments should be established in our colleges, and professorships richly endowed to carry out a course of instruction favorable to the object; others will see the object gained by establishing agricultural schools and experimental farms; and another class will suppose that our academies and high schools can very well be made the auxiliaries of agricultural science.

We should heartily rejoice if rural art in all its departments were thoroughly taught in all these institutions, for there can be no doubt but very much good would result in consequence. We hope the day will come when our colleges will be more respectful of the farmers and their employments than they have ever yet shown themselves to be. We sincerely hope, that Massachusetts will have her agricultural, as she now has her law, medical and theological schools.

But even if this were done, it would not fully meet the necessities of the agricultural interest, for there would be an outlay of time and expense attending a course in these institutions, that but a small proportion of prospective farmers would be willing, or able to meet; so that the many require some system of instruction brought more within their means, to enable them to become the intelligent cultivators of the soil, which the spirit of the age requires them to be.

The people have colleges scattered all over our State. We find their humble structures at almost every corner of the land. These colleges are beginning to be much better endowed both pecuniarily and intellectually than they once were. Better buildings are arising, and more spacious grounds are laid out for their accommodation. In past time, they have been the strength and glory of the land. In their future, we anticipate much for intelligence, usefulness and honor. They ever have been, and ever must be, the colleges from which the masses of agriculturists and artizans graduate. If agricultural schools ever become a strong band and ornament in our country's prosperity, these colleges—our common schools will be the nurseries in which thrifty plants are prepared to remove to the higher gardens.

In past time, there have been great obstacles in the way of introducing the services connected with agriculture into our common school system, in the want of suitable books. But fortunately, at the present time, these difficulties are fully removed. Prof. Gray's "How Plants Grow," and "First Principles of Botany," are written in as familiar style as the most ordinary reading book. "Wells's Science of Common Things" contains more than a thousand and one facts, which relate to things that surround us, and in which we are daily interested, all communicated in an agreeable and attractive style. "Natural Philosophy," and "Chemistry," both by the same author, are both well adapted to the school-room or the family, while Doctor Hitchcock smites the rocks, and makes them give forth intellectual waters, clear, pure and sweet, in his "Elementary Geology," in streams so placid and simple, that any boy who can reduce a fraction, can fathom its mysteries. Then there are other works equal in value, to follow in succession, until a full course is represented, and the practical mental food for a life-time is set before the student.

There are, however, one or two difficulties yet to be removed, before these studies can be successfully pursued in the common schools. The first is, teachers competent to the work. Now-a-days, the teacher qualifies himself to teach those branches required by law. We can scarcely find one who has paid attention to any of the studies above named, or at least, that claims knowledge of them sufficient to teach. They may speak bad French, worse German, or miserable Italian, while with nature as she exists around them, whether in her economy or her beauty, they have sought no acquaintance, and claim no affinity. If our Normal schools are to educate our teachers, let them first educate them in the things available in practical life, especially in the mysteries of its beautiful surroundings.

Let agricultural education form a part of the common school educational system of our State, and let teachers be qualified and enter into it with the zeal that the interests of the State demand, and a new and brighter day would dawn upon our rural interest, than the most sanguine can easily imagine.

WM. BACON.

Richmond, Jan. 17, 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

IS FARMING PROFITABLE?

This seems to be the engrossing topic of several of your correspondents from Middlesex and Hampden, as it undoubtedly is the object of the efforts of a majority of the hard hands throughout the Commonwealth. For what other purposes do they toil from "early morn to latest eve," but to secure the profits of their labor? "By their fruits shall ye know them." Look about among the prosperous and well-to-live in the land, and where will you find these classes to abound more than among the industrious farmers? Who ever knew a farmer who stuck to his business, letting alone speculation of all kinds, to fail? I should as soon think of meeting a white crow. Fail is a term not

known in their vocabulary. Masters in Chancery would do a miserable business, if they had no other than what comes from honest farmers. I say honest farmers, because from my experience in the world, and it is not short, honesty is more likely to be found pure and undefiled in this class of citizens than any other, though some of these occasionally strike their corn with a jerk, or shake down their milk, because it is apt "to heap a little." Nevertheless, I am happy to bear testimony, that there are honest farmers, and thank God that I was born of such stock, and only regret that I ever strayed from their abode. P.

December 12, 1859.

LEGISLATIVE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

[Reported for the New England Farmer by Thos. Bradley.]

The *third* meeting of the present series of the Legislative Agricultural Society was held in the Representatives' Hall at the State House, on Monday evening. The attendance was larger than at the previous meetings, the hall being nearly filled, and the company frequently applauded the remarks of the speakers. The meeting was called to order by Hon. Simon Brown, who introduced Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, as Chairman of the evening, in a few happy and appropriate remarks. The subject for discussion, was "*Fruit and Fruit Culture.*"

On taking the chair, Mr. Wilder said he should speak on the question for discussion principally from matters that had occurred in his own experience, or of which he had some knowledge.—He said there were few subjects that had marked the progress of civilization more or better than the culture of fine fruits. Ancient writers, said he, speak of apples, pears, plums, cherries and others, but I am satisfied the fruits of those times bear no comparison with the fruits of our day. From the time of the writings he had alluded to, to the close of the seventeenth century, we knew little of fruit, although in some monasteries there were accounts of several varieties of pears, and in 1680, the gardener of Louis XIV. had three hundred varieties, of which he said sixty-five were excellent, yet only two of these are now considered worthy of cultivation. This he mentioned to show the improvements that had been made in the cultivation of this fruit.

In 1817, Mr. Wilder said that Coxe, of New Jersey, the principal fruit-grower then in the country, had sixty-five varieties of pears in his catalogue, while of these we have now only two. The speaker then alluded to the growth of interest in fruit culture from the establishment of the London Pomological Society in 1805, the Paris Horticultural Society formed in 1826, to the establishment of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, in 1829.

He alluded to the first exhibition of the latter society, when Mr. Manning, of Salem, showed only two bushels of peaches, but during his life he proved 80 varieties of apples and 60 varieties of pears, recommended by the American Pomological Society, and said that now there were men who had from 800 to 1000 varieties of pears, and who had exhibited nearly 400 on a single occasion. He said that on the formation of the Massachusetts Society, there were only three or four nurseries in this region, while now they were numerous and cultivated in the very best manner, covering hundreds of acres. In Rochester, N. Y., there were nurseries each covering 300 or 400 acres, and in three counties there were fifty millions of trees for sale, the scions of many of these having been sent out originally by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Mr. Wilder then spoke of glass structures in connection with fruit raising, saying that formerly there were few in New England, now they were numerous. He said that there were 40,000 pounds of the foreign grape grown annually within thirty miles of Boston. From this he passed to the consideration of the native grape, asserting that the Catawba had driven the Malaga from the market, solely through its superior quality, and he had been informed by one man who kept a stall in Faneuil Hall Market, that he had sold two and a half tons of Catawba grapes during last season, having received them from the West.

Our seedlings were then alluded to, and the speaker praised these highly, arguing that the aroma is to be the test of the grape, and that the flavor will be what will distinguish them above the European in the making of wine. He mentioned some crosses of the grape which had been produced, and he felt satisfied that the day was not far distant when our hardy grapes will be preferred to the foreign sorts.

Wines were then considered, and the gentleman said that there was one firm in this city who now manufactured 20,000 gallons annually from grapes grown along the Charles River, while hundreds of thousands of gallons were made in Connecticut and Ohio, and other States, and California could make enough to supply the whole world.

Mr. Wilder next spoke of the cultivation of the strawberry which was almost unknown here in 1829, and which had grown to be so important and profitable a fruit. He illustrated this by stating the product of two-fifths of an acre of ground in Belmont, last season, which yielded at the rate of $1300 per acre, and said this was not a solitary instance of the immense profit made.

The apple, said the gentleman, is the great product of the farmer, and on the cultivation of this he would speak, first correcting an error he had made at a previous meeting in relation to the

quantity of apples exported from Boston in the fall and winter of 1858 and '59. This was 120,000 barrels, and the majority of these were Baldwins.

Mr. Wilder here said he had received a letter of interest from Mr. Baldwin in relation to the original tree from which the Baldwin apple took its name which he would read to the meeting at the close of his remarks.

We have, said the speaker, a multitude of foreign varieties of fruits under cultivation, but he thought there were none better, if as good, as the native, and he would recommend attention to these. He said he had so often spoken of the practical methods of cultivation that he would only glance at the most important matters now. The first and most important matter is *thorough draining of the soil*, and this, he considered, not only applied to horticulture but to the agriculture of the nineteenth century. It is, said he, to the farmer, as much an improvement of his land as the telegraph for communication is over the steam cars. He spoke of the impossibility of a tree being thrifty while its roots were in a cold, wet soil, and ridiculed the idea of a man expecting to have a healthy orchard in this condition.

Again, the ground should be thoroughly and deeply worked, and to show the benefit of this, he spoke of parsnips and horseradish, three feet long, which he had seen, and which were grown in a garden, the soil of which had been thrown up from a cellar and was thoroughly worked; he also spoke of a pear tree he had seen in a garden in Roxbury, where the soil was four or five feet deep, drained by a rivulet flowing through the ground, and which produced last season some 800 pears, while one he had of the same size and age, but not having the advantages the Roxbury one had, only bore about 100.

Digging circles round trees is of doubtful utility; he mentioned a peach tree, to illustrate his position, that had a heap of manure lying fifteen feet from the trunk, that grew shoots four feet long from the feeding of the manure. This digging among the roots is consequently injurious. Circle manuring don't feed the roots, as the roots run beyond, either on one side or the other. There were more orchards injured by deep digging and by deep plowing than by anything else. He would allow no plowing in his orchards, and only used a hoe to scarify the soil, manuring on the surface, and working it in with a hoe or a light cultivator, and this was done in the autumn.

The Chairman closed his remarks by condemning the practice of growing other crops in the orchard besides fruit, and expressing the gratification he felt, that we are paying more attention to the cultivation of our native fruits than we are to foreign ones.

Col. Wilder then read the following letter previously alluded to in his address:

Boston, January 30, 1860.

HON. MARSHALL P. WILDER:—*Dear Sir*—You may remember that a few years since several gentlemen of the Horticultural Society expressed a wish that an inquiry should be made as to the origin of the Baldwin apple, so called, the place where the first tree was planted, its history, &c. &c.

That inquiry was commenced, and has resulted in fixing the *site* of the first tree which bore that kind of apple. It is in the south-westerly part of Wilmington, in the county of Middlesex, near the public highway.

The evidence of this fact is shown by the declarations and statements of several individuals, some made under oath, and this testimony seems to be reliable. A survey has been made of the neighborhood, and a plan thereof drawn, and the *spot* where the original tree stood pointed out.

If the papers containing this information should be deemed to be of importance enough to be preserved in the archives of the State, they can be furnished at short notice. At this time I would suggest the propriety of having the site of this ancient apple tree designated on the map of the commonwealth, if the commissioners to whom are entrusted the additions to the map should think the testimony above referred to would justify such designation. With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

No. 128 *Tremont Street.* JAMES F. BALDWIN.

Mr. ASA SHELDON, of Wilmington, being then called on, said there had been considerable dispute in regard to where the Baldwin apple originated, and there were only one or two persons now living who had seen the original tree, which was found in the woods by a grandson of Mr. Butters, of Wilmington, and he transplanted it. He had, with others, devoted some time in finding out the history of the tree, and where it was planted by the above-named gentleman, and was satisfied they were correct in the location. They only found one person who could tell what became of it, and this was learned in the following manner. Col. Baldwin, the father of the gentleman whose letter the chairman had read, was well acquainted with the original tree, which stood on the spot designated when he went to Lynn to learn shoemaking. He remained in Lynn eight years, and when he came back the tree was gone. On further inquiry, the investigators of the subject found a widow woman, who is since dead, who said that the tree was destroyed by lightning on the day she was married, and this circumstance Mr. Sheldon thought must have been particularly impressed on her mind.

He thought some appropriate notice should be taken of the site where this tree stood, from which the State has derived more just notoriety than from any other source. In conclusion, he said that Col. Baldwin, the son of the discoverer, propagated the tree, as the old gentleman had never thoroughly appreciated the value of the fruit.

Colonel STONE, of Dedham, said that the subject of fruit culture was of as much, or more importance, than any other to the agriculturist of Massachusetts, and there were few who could realize the benefit the Baldwin apple has been to us. He spoke of attending a meeting of horticulturists in the western part of New York, and of the decided preference given by fruit cultivators there to the Baldwin for profit, saying that one man had

told him if he was going to set out an orchard of 1000 trees for profit, 999 should be Baldwins. Few people understand the matter of fruit cultivation, and yet it was so simple he could scarcely explain it. Many people decline engaging in the cultivation of fruit, because so many fail, but a good orchard could be secured as easily as a crop of potatoes or corn, with less labor and greater profit.

He advocated thorough drainage and thorough pulverization of the soil—not sub-soiling and trenching—but to be done by loosening the soil, and not manuring too highly.

Mr. Stone then spoke of the Messrs. CLAPP, of Dorchester, who, by systematic culture, raised on five acres of land, planted with apple trees, $600 worth of currants as an undercrop, while they had each year a large crop of the best apples. [The chairman said that the profits of Messrs. Clapp were between $2500 and $3500 per year.]

Col. Stone then spoke of the immense quantity of apples exported from northern and western New York, and the profit made by the business. He said the pear had been considered more difficult to cultivate than the apple, but he was satisfied that in the first 15 years he could make as much profit from an equal number of trees as he could from Baldwin apples, although they would require different treatment.

The chairman said that currants were an exception to any other crop for an undergrowth in orchards, as they will grow better in the shade, and bear abundantly where no other crop will. He considered that grass or grain exhausted the trees. He spoke of a man in Rochester, N. Y., who, from half an acre of the St. Michael pear trees, 8 years old, raised last year 40 barrels, which he sold for $15, $16 and $20 per barrel, at the lowest rate realizing $640. Mr. Wilder also alluded to the orchard of Mr. Austin, in Dorchester, as being very productive, and said that the pear could not be grown on gravelly, sandy or boggy land, but required rich, deep loam.

Mr. DEMOND, of Ware, asked what the best mode of pruning fruit trees was, as also the season to do it and the best wash for young trees? also saying that in his part of the State they were in the habit of getting another crop from their orchards, and he wished to know what was considered the best crop.

Col. STONE said he trimmed his trees about the last of June, as by that time the sap had got into the leaves, and the cutting will not do injury by allowing the rising sap to run out and prevent healing. In relation to wash, the gentleman said he *discarded potash altogether*, as it never was intended to be applied to fruit trees. He used one-third soft soap, a year or more old, and two-thirds water, and washed twice a year. Of this a sufficient quantity remains on the bark for the alkali to run down by the action of the rain, and thus keep off the borer. Alluding to undercrops, Mr. Stone said that for the first 8 or 10 years he thought plowing would not hurt the trees, and he would recommend the raising of root crops so as to keep the ground free of weeds.

A gentleman asked what should be done to prevent so many of our apples becoming so wormy, as he understood that nearly three-fourths of the crop in Worcester county had been spoiled the past season by this trouble.

Col. WILDER said that the best way to prevent this was to prohibit the destruction of birds, and he spoke of a correspondent in Belgium informing him that their fruit was nearly ruined in consequence of the destruction of birds for epicures. He said he was informed that apples sold there, in consequence of this, for $9 per sack, or $6 per bushel, and this in the finest fruit-growing country on the continent.

Mr. SIMON BROWN, of Concord, said the Chairman had covered a good deal of ground in his opening address, but he would only touch on one or two subjects. The first was the grape; and he hoped to see more attention paid to the cultivation of this fruit. We look upon the apple as a blessing, but I am sure the grape will eventually be considered of almost as much importance. It has been a great problem to solve, as to what will check the habits of our people in the indulgence of intoxicating drinks, and the speaker gave it as his opinion that the best means to do this would be to make the cultivation of the grape common, and thus make cheap wines common. As an illustration of the effect cheap wines have on the temperate habits of a people, he spoke of an artist friend who had travelled in France for a year and a half, who had told him that during that time he had only seen one man intoxicated, and only some half dozen in the least disguised with liquor; he had also travelled in Italy a year, and the result was the same. Mr. Brown spoke of the temperance of the people of Hungary in support of his theory, and also the extraordinary fatigue Napoleon's army had undergone on their dry crust and pint of wine. He said there was room enough in the city to raise tons of grapes; indeed, these were the best places, as they were sheltered by the warm, sunny walls, from the winds, where with a little care they can be raised in perfection. He had been told that several of our hardy, and even tender kinds, would flourish on a north wall. There were seventy-five new varieties he had information of, of which several were said to be equal to some of the white grapes raised under glass, and this ought to serve as a stimulus in the greater cultivation of this delicious fruit.

In reply to a question which had been asked, Mr. Brown alluded to pruning trees, and said

that all the borers, and other injurious insects, with plowing and browsing cattle, did less harm to a tree than pruning it at the wrong season. If the tree is pruned in the spring, when it is in full activity, and all the pores of the sapwood filled with limpid juices on their way to the twigs, buds and leaves, there to be elaborated into the food that goes to form fruit and wood, the sap will in most cases stream copiously from the wound and keep the pores permanently open. This continues to exhaust the vitality of the tree, while the sap, upon exposure to the air, undergoes an important change by becoming sour, bitter and poisonous, runs down the bark, turning it black, and finally penetrating to the wood itself, and in the end destroying the tree. But if the pruning is omitted until the middle of June, the sap by that time has mainly left what is called the sapwood, has been transformed from its limpid state to a thicker, gummy-like substance, and is passing slowly down between the inner side of the bark and the wood to make up the annual growth of the tree. If the tree is cut now, no sap follows, the surface of the wound contracts and closes the pores, and the wound readily heals over. Because our ancestors had not much to do in the last of February and March and the early part of April, they formed the habit of pruning their apple trees; and as a habit once formed sticks to our people a little tighter than the shirt of Nessus, they have persevered in the old way until there is scarcely an orchard thirty years of age in New England that does not bear unmistakeable evidences of this unnatural and untimely pruning.

Mr. FAY, of Lynn, corroborated what Messrs. Stone and Brown had said in relation to pruning, from his own experience on forest trees, but he considered that the Augustan age in farming had arrived, when a farmer could offer you a good mug of cider. This he considered was peculiarly the beverage of New England, and if a farmer was allowed to drink his mug of cider he thought he would make a better farmer and a better man; yet the law said it was unfashionable, and so it was not done. He made a strong argument in favor of excluding cider from the list prohibited in the liquor law, and said he had never seen so much intemperance in New England as he had within sight of the Pyrenees. He believed we could not grow the grape to satisfy the demand, and we must therefore turn to cider. Mr. Fay explained that the grape for fruit and the grape for wine were different, the latter only growing well on lands of volcanic origin, which gave the rich vinous flavor, and he considered that California on this account was the only wine-producing country on the North American continent.

Mr. ATWATER, of Springfield, asked what was the best soil in which to plant the apple, and spoke of some lands in his section of the State where the water settles, at certain seasons, to a level 20 to 25 feet below the surface.

Mr. ALLEN, of New York, explained this, and spoke of similar instances in Western New York and Ohio, expressing the opinion that these were not favorable sites for fruit raising.

Mr. CLARK, of Waltham, asked whether the Catawba grape had been cultivated enough in our State to ascertain whether it would succeed.

Mr. WILDER said that the Catawba was found too late, and the Isabella had been found to ripen only occasionally so as to make good wine.

Mr. BUCKMINSTER, spoke for the young folks, and thought that attention should be directed to other fruits that would begin the first year to pay, and he alluded to blackberries as returning a large profit. He urged on the farmers the importance of teaching their sons and daughters more in relation to fruit raising, as being one of the greatest profits of a farm.

Mr. SIMON BROWN offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting that the science of pomology has already conferred signal blessings upon mankind, and that, among the fruits introduced and propagated, the *Baldwin apple*, as an article of substantial food as well as commerce, has taken a high and well-deserved stand. We, therefore, approve the suggestions made in the letter which has been read from Mr. JAMES F. BALDWIN, and recommend that the spot where the *first Baldwin apple tree stood*, be designated upon the State map, and that the Chairman of this meeting be authorized to call upon the proper authorities and procure it to be done.

The Chairman then announced that the subject for discussion at the next meeting would be "*The culture of flax in the Northern States, and its probable substitution for cotton in the manufacture of cheap fabrics.*" Hon. Judge BISHOP, of Lenox, is expected to preside.

Mr. BROWN, on behalf of the Executive Committee, said it was expected that a gentleman who had given much study to the subject for consideration would be present and address the meeting, producing samples of cloth made from flax and from flax and cotton, as also machinery for breaking the flax, and the committee earnestly urged ladies to attend this meeting of the society.

The meeting then adjourned.

UNHEALTHINESS OF ARTIFICIAL MANURES.—Attention is called to this subject by a correspondent of the Mark Lane *Express*. He thinks that this is one cause of disease so prevalent this year in England, among turnips. He cites the expressed opinions of several practical farmers of the injurious effects on sheep and cattle of roots cultivated by the use of artificial manures. A laudable desire, he remarks, to increase the productions of the earth has led to the introduction of powerful manures, without sufficiently studying the laws of physiology.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

FEEDING BEES.

I purchased last summer two swarms of bees; the youngest one I am afraid did not lay up honey enough to last them till summer. If you, or some of your correspondents, will inform me what will be the best food for them you will oblige a reader of the *Farmer*. LAZARUS.

Salisbury, N. H., 1860.

REMARKS.—Put a little liquid honey on the top of the comb, where it will slowly trickle down among the bees, or put a few sticks of barley candy among the combs, as near where the bees are clustered as you can get them.

—

HOW TO BUILD A MILK-ROOM.

Some three years since it became necessary to build a new dairy room. And in order to have it handy and right, it must be next to our cook-room. There being a rise of ground and an orchard of apple trees where it was destined to be, there was not room enough to set it level with the rest of the buildings, therefore it was decided to set it three and a half feet higher than the cook-room. It is divided into two rooms—one for a summer milk-room, with blinds, ventilator and milk-racks to set the pans upon, which gives a circulation of air around the pans. And plenty of cool air is what we want to make the cream rise well.

The room next to the cook-room is the winter milk-room. We neither scald the milk, nor put in carrots to make yellow butter, but simply strain the milk through a cloth and set in on the milk-rack. The room being higher, the heat rises, and the temperature is just right to give a beautiful yellow cream; that is what makes yellow butter. Churn the cream in the thermometer churn made by Nourse, Mason & Co., Boston and Worcester, and you will have butter worth as much as Mr. Joshua T. Everett's. F. S. C.

Woodbury, Vt., 1860.

—

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS.

I am pleased with the spirit of those who demand of writers to put their names to what they say. This is certainly well when what is said has not strength in it to stand alone; but when it has, why not put it forward to make its own way in the world?

I have often thought where a man comes out with his name signed to something that others may possibly know as well or better than himself—especially if they have had many more years for experience and opportunities for observation—that it savors not a little of vanity thus to sign one's name. For myself, until better advised, I shall be content to throw out such ideas as I have, and let them find their way along as best they may.

January 21, 1860.

—

TO KILL LICE ON A COLT.

Feed it with meal, and mix in about a spoonful of sulphur a day for a week, and then rest a week; then feed more sulphur, a few days, and the lice will leave.

POTATO SPROUTS FOR PLANTING.

After my corn was up and hoed last season, there were some hills missing. I told my son to go into the cellar and pick off some of the largest sprouts, from six to eighteen inches long, and set them out in the corn-missing hills which had been hen manured in the hill for corn, which he did. They all grew, and yielded equally as good and as many in the hill as the same kind did in the same kind of ground the year previous. There was no rot among them; they were the Coburg and Sand Lake varieties. Please remember that the sprouts or vines were picked off with the *fingers* as close to the potato as possible. The potato, after this, was given to the hogs, whole and sound. So I say to all, you may let your potato sprouts grow as did mine, in a warm place, and then set out the top, and raise them as well, I believe, as in the usual way, saving the whole of the tuber for other purposes. W. SHELDON.

Bristol, Vt., Jan., 1860.

—

MUCK FROM OTTER CREEK.

I wish to inquire what sort of manure I shall have, if I cover my yard with a sort of muck taken from the bank of old Otter Creek, and let it mix with the cattle droppings through the remainder of the winter. A YOUNG FARMER.

REMARKS.—Cannot tell you, sir; ask some of your neighbors who have given attention to mucks. Don't hesitate to learn of any one about you.

—

A FINE CALF.

I had a calf 8½ months old, dressed yesterday. To-day the four quarters, hide and tallow, weighed 550 lbs. If any of your Massachusetts men have had a larger native calf than mine, please say so.

WILLIAM RHODES, JR.

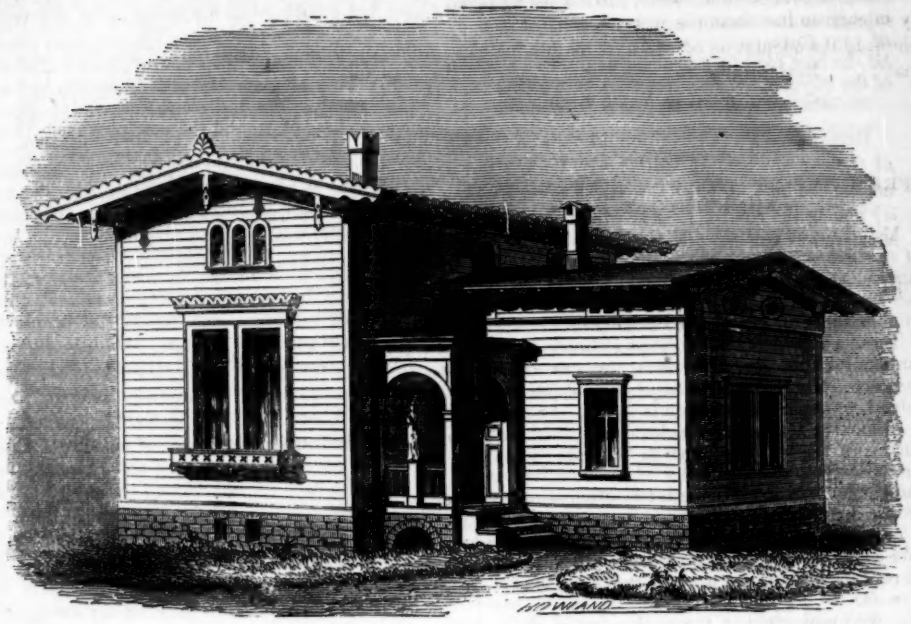
Richmond, Vt., Jan., 1860.

—

TO CURE CHILBLAINS.

Take strong vinegar, one spoonful, and as much fine salt as will dissolve in it. Bathe the part so chilled two or three times, and you are better; then next night two or three times more, and you are well. L. AMES.

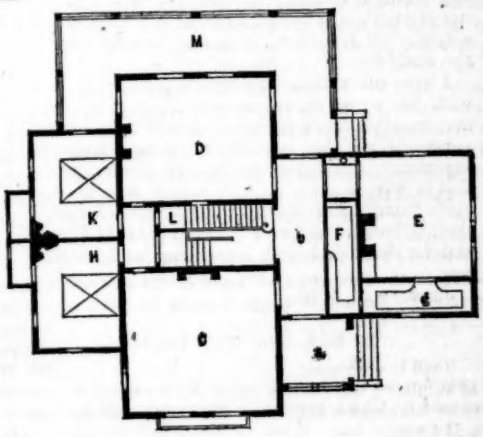
WALKING HORSES—A SUGGESTION.—I would like to suggest an idea, which, if you approve, you can prepare an article, or get some of your correspondents to discuss, as to the propriety of a premium being offered at our annual fairs, for fast walking horses as well as trotters. I think horses trained to walk fast would be a greater benefit to farmers in general than fast trotters, as almost all of their work has to be done with a walk. I once knew a man in Massachusetts, who, before the railroads were built, kept from two to four teams at work on the road, and never allowed them to trot at all, and made the distance in quicker time than his neighbors, who made their horses trot at every convenient place. He said that when a horse commenced to walk after a trot, he walked much slower than his common gait if kept on a walk, and thereby lost more than he gained.—*Country Gentleman.*



THE NEW AMERICAN STYLE FOR COTTAGES AND VILLAS.

We submit above an example of the new American style of architecture for Cottages and Villas, which is now being adopted by many persons of refinement and taste; this example, though small and quite plain, shows the general characteristic of the style, and those characteristics we intend as representing the comforts and requirements of the American people. Is there a reason why we should not have a style of our own? What an abundance of materials we possess, and with all our ingenuity in other sciences and arts, why should we be so far behindhand as regards architectural beauty, in the designs for our country homes? Our attempts may not be successful in producing a natural style, but we shall make the greatest endeavors to perfect our designs more and more, as they leave our hands, until we have reached a great degree of perfection. *Why* we introduced the variety of forms, &c., in this design, would take up too much space to describe, but we will state, there is not a single detail but what has character and meaning, as regards the plan, as the owner gave his own requirements and arrangement.

A, is entrance porch; B, Hall; C, Parlor, 16 by 14; D, Dining-Room, 16 by 13; E, Kitchen, 12 by 13; F, Store Room; G, Kitchen Pantry; K and H, two Bed-Rooms with fireplaces and closets to each; L, Closet for dining-room; M, Verandah, 6 ft. wide. On second floor of main building are two bed-rooms, bath-room and closet; the attic over kitchen is used as a place for storage. There is a



cellar under the main building and kitchen wing only. Parlor faces north, Dining-room south, Kitchen east; Bed-room wing only one story high.

Cost, on Long Island, $2500. We shall shortly submit another example in brick construction, showing the adaptation of the style to that material. Respectfully,

SAELTZER & VALK, Architects.

For the New England Farmer.

PREMIUMS BY THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

MR. EDITOR:—I saw in the January number of the *Farmer*, the vote of the State Board of Agriculture, requiring the different county societies to offer premiums for the best experiments in applying manures at different depths.

This is a subject of much importance to the farmers of this Commonwealth, and any experiments which will give us reliable instruction upon this subject will be a public good.

In looking over this offer, and the plan marked out by the Board, it appears to me that we may strictly comply with the letter of the instructions, and yet not get any reliable information upon the proper depth of applying manures.

They do not tell us whether it is to be sward land, or land that has been cultivated one or more years. If we take sward land, and plow the manure for lot No. 1, underneath the sward, how shall we know whether it was the fact of its being beneath the sward, on the depth at which it was applied, that caused the different results?

When we come to lot No. 2, and try to cross plow it, and get the manure at half the depth, we infer the Board intended the experiment should be tried upon old land.

We will take a piece of mellow ground, and spread the manure upon lot No. 1, and plow ten inches deep, and if the manure is fine and well composted, as the furrow slice rises and cracks, the manure falls in, and gets well mixed with the soil, instead of being buried at the bottom of the furrow; if the manure is coarse, much of it will be left where the plow will draw it up when we come to cross plow at half the depth; thus we may follow the directions, and yet not furnish any reliable instruction upon this subject. The only way in which I could get the manure at a uniform depth when plowing it into mellow land, would be to follow the plow with a hoe, and draw the manure into the furrow, and then turn the next furrow upon it. If the Board had required this, the experiment might have been useful.

I will now go upon lot No. 2. It has been plowed deep, according to the directions. I will try to spread the manure upon the rough furrows, for according to the directions, I must not put the harrow upon it yet; much of the manure falls into the holes; I then cross plow it five inches deep; at what depth does any one suppose the manure is covered? To test it fairly, I think that No. 2 should have been rolled down smooth, and the manure placed in the bottom of the furrow at half of the depth of No. 1.

I next spread the manure upon No. 3, and then I am told to take a harrow or cultivator and go over the whole lot. What is the effect of this upon No. 2? Does not the harrow move much of the manure, and mix it with the soil, and may not the result be affected by the mixing, as much as by the depth? I think there should have been nothing but a bush harrow upon it after it was plowed.

I am now to plant the whole lot, and then take the team and cart the manure upon No. 4. This looks some like book farming; to drive over the corn after it is planted. I have always been taught to think a planted cornfield as almost sacred. We have all read of the honest English farmer who complains of the hounds treading down his wheat in the spring, and was paid for the injury done: but at harvest time, he found that the trampling had been an advantage to him; so if No. 4 does the best, how can we tell whether it was owing to the trampling and beating it got after it was planted, or the manner in which the manure was applied?

I think there will be but little practical difference in the condition of the manure upon lots No. 3 and 4, except for the first three or four weeks; I begin to run the cultivator through the corn about the 1st of June; then the manure will be mixed with the soil the same as on No. 3. They tell us that the after cultivation must be the same upon each lot. But they do not tell us what that shall be. By using the plow, or Sawyer's improved cultivator, we may hill it up so as to spoil the whole experiment, and yet be entitled to the premium according to the offer.

An experiment conducted in so loose a manner is worse than none. They say nothing about how we shall plow it the second year. If the manure has been where they supposed it to be, when we plow No. 1, it will bring the manure to the surface for the second year, and the others will be buried. What instruction can we derive from such an experiment?

I have endeavored to take a practical view of this subject, feeling that when the Board holds the rod of state over the backs of the county societies, and say, thus shalt thou do, the public have the right to ask, what will be the practical benefit?

WILLIAM R. PUTNAM.

Danvers, Jan. 25, 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

LUNAR INFLUENCE ON THE TEMPERATURE OF THE EARTH.

Your correspondent "J. A. A.," of Springfield, has given a series of experiments in your issue of Jan. 7th which are of more than ordinary interest. There is nothing like exactness, even in farming. He has certainly made out a pretty clear case, that there can be no connection between high and low moon, a new or a full moon, with the temperature of the earth. If his conclusions are correct, farmers should disabuse themselves of an almost universal opinion that frosts are pretty sure to occur in the months of September and October, at the full of the moon. Ask any man about it, and he will tell you that we must look for a frost at the full of the moon in September, and if he can get by that, he expects his corn will ripen before another frost. Now whence this almost universal opinion? It does not seem hardly possible, that it can be a mere whim, yet it is possible that when

a frost *does* occur at the full of the moon, the coincidence is specially remembered by the farmer, and thus the exception is taken for the general rule.

As "J. A. A." has gone so far towards settling this point, the thought has occurred to me that if he would give us the connection between the occurrence of frost and the situation of the moon for the month of September only for a series of years previous to 1856, as that is the month more particularly noticed by farmers, and as it has been supposed that the last three years have been somewhat peculiar in regard to their temperature, it would pretty conclusively settle the whole matter.

His observations cannot fail of interesting every intelligent farmer, and I regret that I have not the same meteorological tables at command from which to make my own observations. It had long been an open question with me, which led me to introduce the subject into the columns of the *Farmer*. I could add no philosophical principle so as to combine theory with what I had supposed to be facts, and if I have provoked "J. A. A." to good works by setting forth the truth, I desire nothing more than to express to him my hearty thanks for what he has done, and remain,

Bethel, Me., Jan. 7, 1860. N. T. T.

For the New England Farmer.

CURE FOR SCRATCHES IN HORSES.

FRIEND BROWN:—I saw an article in the *Farmer* of December 31, from your able correspondent, "Oak Hill," that gave a description and a remedy for "*Scratches in Horses.*" I agree with him, that if one knows a remedy, he should make it public, as, indeed, he ought all knowledge that he thinks may be of value to his fellow-men. I felt the force of this when I received the information from you, and your several correspondents, in regard to making butter in winter, for which you have my hearty thanks.

But to return, when I worked at my trade, in the city, I had occasion to use different kinds of paints and oils, among them was what is called "bright varnish." Frequently I would cut myself, sometimes so severely that I have been laid up for weeks. I would try all kinds of salve, but the wound would be a long time healing. One day I cut my hand severely, and as I had nothing to put on it at hand, I thought I would try some of the *bright varnish*; as it is a sticky substance, I thought it might stick the wound together; accordingly I bound up my hand with it and kept on to work; the varnish relieved the pain, I had no soreness in the wound, and in one week it was entirely healed. My son was sawing through a board one day, and carelessly put his hand under the board. My son had his forefinger bone entirely sawed off. I put the ends together, put on this varnish, bound it up, and the result was, that after one week the bandage was removed, and the finger had nearly grown together. My horse once had scratches so badly, that it was difficult to get him to move about. I rubbed the parts affected with this varnish, for two days, which caused a perfect cure. The varnish can be bought at the paint shops for six or eight cents per quart. E. LEONARD.

New Bedford, January 16, 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

HOW I IMPROVE THE SOIL.

The farm I now occupy belongs to C. H. Leonard, Esq., of New York, and embraces a variety of soil, some quite sandy, some may be termed sandy loam, other portions gravelly, and quite stony, while we have some swampy peaty soil.

Mr. L.'s principal object has been to clear the stones out, build walls in place of wood fences, drain the wet places, and get in order for farming. This being the case, farming has occupied a secondary place, yet something has been done. Five years ago I found a farm of about forty acres, three-fourths of which was overrun with sweet fern, briers and bushes, the skinning process having been well carried out when cultivated, cutting only about three tons of hay, and that none of the best, and now twenty acres under improvement yield thirty-five tons of fodder the two past years, besides our corn, and the fodder from which, acre for acre, I consider equal to a hay crop of two tons per acre.

As the greatest portion of the farm is sandy and sandy loam, I have resorted to the use of ashes and clover to get as much vegetable matter incorporated with it as I could, and at the same time obtain a remunerating crop the same season. The process has been this: plow deep, take out all the stones likely to interfere with future plowing, dress with barn-cellar manure if corn is to be planted; if potatoes, equal parts of guano and plaster in hill; if to be sown with grain, and no ashes previously used upon the piece, ninety to one hundred bushels to the acre are put in, some oats and clover, three bushels of the former and twenty pounds of the latter, (western clover.) I cut the oats for fodder, as soon as they form the seed, never allowing them to ripen, as they will exhaust the fertility of the soil. By cutting the oats early, the clover gets a better chance to grow, often lodging the first season. Oats give two tons and upwards of the very best fodder to the acre, equal to any hay I ever used. The next season, the first crop of clover is made into hay from the twentieth of June to the first of July, giving about two tons per acre. The after-growth is generally as large as the first, and is plowed in, when in full blow, before it changes. I don't know as this is the best time to do it, but it is my practice. The following spring plow again, and sow as before, repeating the whole process, save the application of ashes, which I do not like to use too lavishly. In this way I have a clover crop to plow in once in two years; the soil seems rapidly to change its character, decided improvement is seen by the most sceptical, and I am much pleased with the result. J. COE.

Rochester, Jan. 12, 1860.

HAY AND BUTTER.—A correspondent of the Ohio *Farmer* boasts of having raised from one acre, at one cutting, 9,315 lbs. of timothy and red-top hay, for which he received the premium at the fair of Summit county; and that he has a cow from twenty-four and a half quarts of whose milk he made five pounds and ten ounces of thoroughly prepared butter—cow fed on hay and corn stalks, with a peck of soft corn per day.

For the New England Farmer.

FARMS AND FARMING IN CLAREMONT, N. H.

MR. EDITOR:—I said to you in a former communication, that I might, at some future time, have something to say about my own Sugar River valley. But notwithstanding the hint I gave you in said communication, I should be almost tempted to relinquish the task, were it not that the granite hills, verdant vales and crystal streams, in the vicinity of this valley, are always invested with those charms on which memory fondly lingers, when travelling in other sections of New England. My remarks at this time will be confined to that portion of the valley which lies within the limits of the town of Claremont, as that part of it lying in the towns of Newport and Sunapee, has already been most ably noticed in a former number of the *Farmer*, by one of its editors, who, wherever he may wander, looks back uo doubt with pride and longings to the days he has spent, and pleasures he has enjoyed, in this beautiful valley, and wherever he may roam, and fond as he may be of roaming, probably never finds the place which presents equal attractions.

Sugar River enters this town from the east, and flows on through this valley to the Connecticut, a distance of about eight miles from east to west, dividing the town near the centre, leaving almost equal portions on either side. The falls afford a water privilege of great value, and within the last twenty years, a large amount of capital has been invested in cotton mills, and other manufacturing establishments in the village. Twenty years ago, the village contained probably not more than three thousand inhabitants, but at the present time, they number near six thousand. The town has been settled over one hundred years, and is one of the best agricultural towns in the State, comprising as it does, a large amount of meadow, rich and productive, and in valuation, ranks, we believe, about the fifth in the State. That portion of the village called the plain, presents about the same appearance it did twenty years ago, while in other portions of the town, great changes have been wrought; in fact, nearly three-fourths of the village has been built up within the last twenty years, and if the march of improvement is still onward, Claremont will very soon become a city.

Scattered along this valley are a large number of young, industrious and independent farmers, who have taken the place of those who worked them many years ago, and they would as soon dispense with almost any other article of personal property, as the *New England Farmer*; they take it almost to a man, consequently, improvements are constantly going on; such, for instance, as ditching, underdraining, barn cellars, &c; while each one strives to excel the other in stock, implements, and crops of various kinds. So you see there is a continual effort for the best farm, the best stock, the best buildings and the greatest amount of wealth, and to accomplish their purpose, it becomes necessary to consult the *Farmer* weekly, which fact will explain to you, why you have such a list of subscribers in this town. That portion of Sugar River valley which lies in the easterly part of the town, is a beautiful tract of territory, and the view from the southern hills is truly magnificent; the bright river runs like a natural mirror, while on the north, lies the old Green Mountain, cultivated almost to its summit, and on either side may be seen meandering streams with their crystal waters flowing on to the bosom of the beautiful Sugar River. The western portion of this valley is not so attractive, although it presents much that is beautiful. There are many young, industrious and wealthy farmers west of the village, who own extensive and productive farms, and who are themselves model farmers, but the view from the surrounding hills is not so delightful as that east of the village, notwithstanding it is all very beautiful.

W. C. A. CLINTON.

Claremont, Jan., 1860.

LEGISLATIVE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

[REPORTED FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER BY THOS. BRADLEY.]

The fourth meeting of the series of the Legislative Agricultural Society was held on Monday evening in the Representatives' Hall at the State House, Hon. HENRY BISHOP, of Lenox, presiding. There was a very large attendance, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, and the gratification of the company was frequently expressed in hearty applause.

On taking the chair, Mr. Bishop addressed the meeting. He said he had to state to the company that he had not been engaged in agriculture, but had spent his life in the study and practice of another profession, yet he had a fondness for agriculture, and his tendencies led him in that direction. He then spoke of the Divine assistance vouchsafed to the farmer, and said that the Almighty gave every facility and made every arrangement for the prosecution of agriculture. The whole world is given to the agriculturist—the air, the water from the clouds, and the soil, are his capital—his bank, and no bank commissioner need be called to interpose in that direction. The conditions of agriculture, said he, are in the air, ground, light, heat and moisture; they are either the forces of the agriculturist, or they are the elements of his plan. The atmosphere contains most of the elements of vegetation. In this there is oxygen, nitrogen, carbonic acid, ammonia, and other elements not combined as necessary components, all being conditions of growth.

Mr. Bishop took exception to remarks made at a former meeting that a knowledge of science was not necessary to make a successful farmer. He said that as we work on the soil, all around, all above us aids us, and then science comes in play. The farmer, said he, must be more than an empyric. There are secret forces to be learned, gases to be understood which can neither be seen or felt, but which require a knowledge of science to give us their properties, qualities and effects. He then spoke of the different soils, silicious, calcareous,

&c., and showed by illustration the difference in soils, apparently the same to the eye, but which contained properties rendering them quite different in productiveness. He advocated the instruction of the farmer in these matters, expressing the pleasure it gave him to find that it was proposed by the present Legislature to take steps in this direction, and saying that any measure of this kind should have his hearty approval.

The speaker contended that the farms in Massachusetts were depreciating in value, and showed from the returns of corn, potatoes and sheep, in 1840 and 1850, that his argument was correct. This he attributed to the fact that the land had been despoiled of its fertilizing properties, and was not attended to. There might be lands about Boston that had increased in value and productiveness from the close proximity of, and easy access to the multitude of fertilizing compounds, but the reverse was the case of the great bulk of land in the State.

Mr. Bishop then spoke of females, and said he was in favor of giving them their appropriate rights—God had given them, and man had no right to circumscribe them. He said he did not allude to political rights, but thought that, though they were not allowed to vote, they exercised an influence we were not aware of. He alluded to gardens and orchards, and said that here they would be found the co-workers with man. Speaking of flowers, he passed in review the number of exotics introduced into England from the reign of Henry VIII. to George III., and showed that while under kings the number was insignificant, under the reign of queens it was very large. He said no one could deny that the garden was woman's especial sphere.

The speaker then passed to the subject to be brought to the attention of the meeting, that of Flax, and said he had not seen, for twenty-five years, a square rood of flax growing, but he was brought up among men who grew flax, and made a profit on it, and he remembered a farmer in the section where he lived, on coming to take his seat as a member of the Legislature, harnessing up his horses to his sled, and putting on a load of flax, which he brought to sell at the Boston market.

He said there was none cultivated here now, and the reason for this was not that it deteriorated the soil, for it did not; it was not for fear the crop would fail, for it never failed; but it was the expense of getting the flax prepared for market, the rotting and preparing the textile filament. It is a crop, said the honorable gentleman, worthy to be raised—a double crop—furnishing clothing for day and night, and food for the animal. Wheat and corn will not do this, and no animal will, except the sheep, (laughter) which furnished food for the table, and clothing—indeed, said he, the sheep is to the animal world what flax is to the vegetable world (increased laughter).

The Chairman closed his remarks by introducing STEPHEN M. ALLEN, Esq., to the meeting.

Mr. ALLEN commenced by saying that many of the memories of youth which were gathered amid the rocks, hills and valleys of New England forty years ago, had come down to him with pleasant associations connected with the growth and manufacture of flax. The linen wheel, the warping bars and the loom were indispensable elements in the outfit of every farm-house, and the spinning and the weaving of the fibre among the most necessary accomplishments of the young farmer's wife. What boy, thus born, said the speaker, exists, who cannot remember among his earliest occupations the pulling and the spreading of flax, and his first perquisites of a roll of tow cloth, which he sold at the country store at 12½ cents per yard?

Such memories as these, coupled with the hardships and sufferings incidental to the life of the farmer's boy of that age of New England history, bring vividly before him, in whatever position he may be placed, his true condition—what he then was, what he now is, and what he ought to be. It was such memories as these which gave the speaker an interest in agricultural pursuits, and though thirty-five years and more had passed since he left the mountain glen where he was born, yet the old carol which was tuned on the mountain side from the head waters of the Saco, to move, as was supposed, the first flax spinning-wheel which was set up in New England, was as vivid before his mind's eye now as when a child eight years of age. These associations, to which he had alluded, together with the announcement in England that flax could be cottonized, led him to lay the subject before the Legislature of this State, of which then he then was a member, nine years ago.

The order presented was that the Committee on Agriculture collect such information as could be procured concerning the culture and growth of flax, and its probable substitution for cotton in the manufacture of cheap fabrics. Having been called on by the Chairman of this Committee to furnish such information as he could readily get on the subject, Mr. Allen furnished it at length, and it was printed for the use of the Legislature.

During the following year, said the speaker, it was pretty well demonstrated that the experiment of cottonizing flax in England was a failure, and his attention was given to a personal examination of the subject, in detail, of the mechanical and chemical construction of the flax fibre, in connection with building mills for its manufacture at Niagara Falls.

In the year 1854, the lecturer said he became

fully possessed of the opinion that the fibre of flax could be cottonized, but it was not until the spring of 1857, while engaged at Niagara Falls, that his experiments were satisfactory to himself. From that time the sphere of experiments was enlarged, and a boll of flax was sent to the bleachery of Mr. George W. Brown, at East Greenwich, R. I., and machinery was set up for working it. The process was found defective in the machinery department, for breaking and unstranding the fibre, and it has been by the inventions of Mr. Stephen Randall that this difficulty was removed. This gentleman has had much experience in the manufacture of flax, and he, together with Messrs. Sisson & Co., of Centreville, R. I., is entitled to the credit of the construction of the machinery now used in the manufacture.

In the spring of last year, the old machinery, together with the new, was brought to Watertown, in this State, and there, through the interest and liberality of a couple of gentlemen in Boston, it was set up, and the experiments continued, until now they have been successfully completed.—Through these experiments, said Mr. Allen, we are enabled to give to the world, as we think, a new article of manufacture, much desired and needed at the present time, the fibre of which can be grown on any soil or in any climate, affording the agriculturist sufficient profit to induce him to cultivate it extensively, while the manufacturer and consumer will gain by its adoption. It spins and weaves readily, on either cotton or woollen machinery, mixed with either of those substances in small or large proportion. The length of its fibre can be adapted to either cotton or wool, while the fabric thus made is stronger and more beautiful, and the cost is not increased.

The speaker then exhibited pure flax in its semi-bleached state, prepared by his process; flax in this state mixed with cotton; stockings knit from the flax mixed with wool; jean, composed of 80 per cent. cotton and flax, equally mixed, and 20 per cent. wool; satinet, the filling of which was composed of 25 per cent. of wool with 75 per cent. of flax; together with print, a portion of which was flax, all of which looked very well.

Mr. Allen then gave a history of the culture, uses and manufacture of flax, from the time of the early Egyptians to its introduction to this country by the settlers in Londonderry, N. H., where the manufacture of linen in 1748 had become so well advanced, and the cloth so noted, that the Provincial Government had occasion to grant the manufacturers the privilege of stamping their cloths to prevent counterfeiting. In 1638, said Mr. Allen, three brothers came from England, and settled at Exeter; two of these went back to procure machinery for flax manufacture, but were lost at sea, and a descendant of the third one commenced the manufacture of the article in 1775, on the banks of the Merrimack, but the war breaking out, he joined the army, and after fighting at Bunker Hill, and through the war, he returned to find his property destroyed. This man had several sons, one of whom he sent South to prospect, and another to New Hampshire. Soon the latter returned, and from his statement the family moved, and at the foot of the White Mountains, in 1790–94, were erected the first linen wheels that were ever turned by water, so far as the speaker had ever been able to ascertain. (Mr. Allen exhibited a well executed oil painting of this mill for the inspection of the audience.)

The manufacture of flax was continued here until the old man died, and the property eventually came into the hands of his eldest and youngest daughters, who carried on the manufacture. And here accident gave an idea in relation to the rotting of flax which threw much light on the mind of the old gentleman. He had been in the habit of storing flax in a small barn situated over a stream, and a bundle accidentally fell, or was placed in the water, and when it was taken out the rotting was perfect, and ever after water rotting was used. In England, this is done in pools in which the water is stagnant. It was said that the water in this White Mountain brook was, in old times, very poisonous to animals, and that split-footed beasts that drank of it would not live two years unless they were watered elsewhere; and this was attributed to an Indian curse; but it has since been ascertained, from an analytical examination, that the water contained mineral properties which have been turned to good account in the rotting of flax. The youngest of the ladies who carried on the mill, and who is now living, and has until recently been an extensive contributor to the agricultural papers of our State, has always insisted that flax could be made into cotton. This lady was the mother of the lecturer.

The speaker then alluded to the experiments made in Europe by Chevalier Claussen, and contended that he had not been able to dissolve the gum resin, or glutinous matter, which causes the fibres to adhere together, while he, the speaker, claimed to have done this. He exhibited a specimen of old line flax, which he said brought 12 to 15 cents per pound, from the labor necessary to prepare it, which he said had a fibre apparently two feet long as seen by the naked eye, while, if examined by a miscroscope, it would be seen this was composed of short fibres overlaying each other, and confined by this resinous matter. He argued that the natural fibre of flax was only from 1½ to 2 inches long.

Mr. Allen then exhibited a machine for breaking unbroken flax, and said that by the use of this he did away with pulling and rotting, the latter

process injuring the fibres and changing the substance. After long line flax has been woven, said the speaker, it has gone through 36 processes, and in the bleaching he claimed the fibre was reduced to its natural length, and thus gets its fineness. In proof of this he referred his hearers to the examination of linen cloth, which shows the same length of fibre he claimed for it.

Chevalier Claussen's plan of cottonizing flax failed because it could not be spun on cotton machinery, and it was the purpose of the speaker and his associates to manufacture largely, but to mix with cotton and wool. To do this they could produce the fibre half an inch, or three inches long, this being governed by the distance at which the rollers were placed in the breaking machine, and thus both spin and weave on the ordinary cotton machinery.

Mr. Allen then spoke of the difference in construction of cotton and flax, the fibre of the former being flat, while that of the latter was tubular like wool, and he exhibited drawings from the magnifying glass to show this. From this he showed that the capacity to take coloring in dyeing was different, thus giving a great advantage to flax in mixing with wool. From this he passed to an explanation of the manner of taking away the resin or gum from flax, and said that electricity must have an agency in the process, as he had proved to a considerable extent, although he felt satisfied the half was not yet learned.

In conclusion, he spoke of the small territory necessary to raise sufficient flax for the supply of the country, and the profit to be made by raising it, and urged on the meeting the advantages to be gained by its more extensive culture.

In reply to a question by Mr. FLINT, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, as to how long it would take to place coarse flax in the condition of the bleached exhibited by Mr. Allen, that gentleman said, that apart from the washing and bleaching, which would occupy a couple of hours, the flax could be converted from straw to cotton in half an hour, if dried by artificial heat, and that a machine for breaking, costing $400, would break two tons of straw per day.

In answer to a question as to the relative cost of flax prepared in this way to cotton, he said that the cost was the same, as cotton was worth 13 cents per pound, and they were selling flax for 15, a saving being effected in waste in favor of flax of two cents per pound. In relation to durability, he claimed that the cloth made from flax prepared by his process, or what he call "fibrilia cotton," was as durable as that woven from the long fibre, as he knew that the long fibre, so called, was shortened in the bleaching process.

The lecture was concluded amid loud applause, and the company then crowded around the specimens Mr. Allen had exhibited, examining them with much interest.

The subject for discussion at the next meeting is "*Agricultural Education*," and Hon. Richard S. Fay, of Lynn, is expected to preside.

For the New England Farmer.

ONION IN THE HUMAN EAR.

About a year ago I was troubled with a severe ear-ache, and tried all the remedies I could hear of, and at last, (being advised to do so,) I inserted the heart of a roasted onion; this alleviated the pain so much, that I tied a handkerchief over my ear, laid down and slept soundly. I had then had no sleep for nearly a week. I slept five hours; awoke and thought I would take my comforter out of my ear; but in endeavoring to do so it only served to crowd it in farther, and my ear felt so comfortable, I concluded I would let it remain for the time.

In the latter part of the summer, at times, I would be deaf in that ear, and within a month, by pressing my finger against the lower part of my ear, I found there was a hard bunch, which was very painful. This become very troublesome; I began to be alarmed, and was about asking medcal advise. I had my ear "dug out" with a tape needle, and then put in some bitter-sweet onintment, and let it remain an hour. I then made a wash of castile soap and soft water, had it about lukewarm. Had that forced into my ear with a syringe. The third syringfull I had forced in, I heard a report like a pistol, and I found the heart of the onion which had been in my head a year, and had caused a sore there. When the heart of the onion came out, blood and matter followed. I continued to use the wash for my ear three times a day, and in three days my ear was perfectly well.

Thinking, kind reader, you might be afflicted in the same way, I take this opportunity of informing you of a remedy. A. WILLARD HALLOCK.

Brooksville, Jan., 1860.

NOTHING BUT A FARMER.

The idea is often expressed that the business of farming requires rather physical than mental activity. The editor of the London *Saturday Review*, after returning from a Cattle Show, gives expression to some reflections on the demands which modern agriculture makes on the mental powers of the farmer, from which we copy a paragraph.

Mere idlers are not the anxious, cautious heads engaged all the week in manipulating and admiring the scarifiers and reaping machines and steam plows in Baker Street. If farming is all that its extant instruments and implements betoken, it is among the most difficult of economical pursuits. The British farmer must be an accountant holding his own against Messrs. Quilter and Ball; for he must be able to get the exact cost of every bushel of corn raised on his fields, and of every beast and sheep consigned to the butcher. He must know what he wins and loses by every acre, and he must be possessed of the natural history

of every bushel of manure throughout its career of raw material, grass, beef or flour. In other words, the farmer must be a good arithmetician, something of a chemist, not unacquainted with animal and vegetable physiology, a practical mechanician, skilled in at least the theory of several branches of natural philosophy, possessed of that administrative faculty which can rule and attract subordinates, with moral qualifications which, to say the least of them, must embrace sobriety, punctuality, quickness, tact, and what is generally known by business habits. If the farmer is not this, he is nought; and the fact that the trade has compelled him to be this is not the least of its blessings. There is probably no class which the last quarter of a century has so much elevated and refined as that of the British farmer.

SAW-DUST AS A MANURE.

We are pleased to notice an increasing attention to the subject of agriculture, especially in this State. Scientific labor is being applied to almost every branch, and it is producing the desired results. Next to drainage, we think the most desirable object to be attained by our New England farmers is a sufficiency of manures to keep the land in heart. Nature has evidently provided for herself, and if man would follow out the teachings of nature he would find that her generosity knows no stint, if rightly taken advantage of.

We noticed, in last week's *New England Farmer*, a query propounded by an intelligent farmer of Orange, in this State, as to the value of pine saw-dust for the purposes of bedding cattle, and we feel tempted to give our experience. In the years 1855 and 1856, while residing on the homestead in the town of B——, Franklin county, Mass., we conceived a plan for saving the urinal deposits of the stock, and also to absorb the juicy part of the droppings. We had access to a large sawmill, about three-quarters of a mile from the barn, where large quantities of hemlock and other timber were annually sawed. We commenced carting saw-dust into the barn shed about the first of September, and continued it through the winter, filling up the large bay as fast as the hay was spent. Our plan for using was as follows: first, to cover over the entire surface of the stable floor to the depth of three or four inches with saw-dust, and for the convenience of the milch cows there was placed on the top of the saw-dust coarse brakes and spent corn fodder—this last was shaken up every morning and night, and replenished as often as necessary, and the entire stable cleaned out once a week. Under the cattle and young stock sawdust only was used. So thoroughly did this absorb all the urine and juicy substances that when thrown into the shed, the stable floor was as dry as the barn floor. The manure heap in spring gave 148 large ox loads—from sawdust 70 loads, muck 20. The manure was entirely free from heat—was so thoroughly pulverized that no fork was necessary to load it; and the crop of corn in the fall fully responded to the benefits of this treatment.

There is another valuable manure to be found around saw-mills, and we have often wondered, as we rode through Orange, Athol and Erving, that the farmers did not use it. We mean the accumulations about the log-way which have been rotting there for years. Nothing better can be added to the compost heap, especially for potatoes and the purposes of top-dressing.—*Commercial Bulletin, Dec.* 17.

For the New England Farmer.

IS FARMING PROFITABLE?

Mr. Editor:—I was much pleased to see an article in your issue of Nov. 12th on the cost of farm products, for I fully agree with Mr. Pinkham that it is quite as necessary for the farmer to know the cost of what he produces, as it is for the mechanic. But I am not prepared to wholly endorse his statement, that the farmers of New England, as a class, are running behind hand at the rate of $10 to $15 for every acre of corn which they harvest, and "more so," on all other crops.

I think some of them have, at least, kept even with the world, while others have gained in dollars and cents, aside from raising a large family of healthy robust children, and yielding them an education that enables them to make the domestic hearth the loadstone of attraction, the seat of happiness, morality and virtue, or fits them to guide the noble ship of State with as much correctness and firmness of purpose, as the more delicately reared offspring of the merchant or millionare.

Mr. P. says, "we make a positive loss of $10 or more per acre on our corn crop, and the shrewdest Yankee that ever was made cannot figure it any other way." I do not profess to have any peculiar Yankee shrewdness, and yet I think that I can raise an acre of corn, and *feed it out to stock*, and *make money* by the operation. I will not *guess* at the matter, nor "mystify it by running one thing into another" so far but what any one can easily see through it.

Below Mr. Pinkham's figures he says, "Thus it will be seen that we have cultivated our crop in the most prudent and economical manner." Here, again, I must differ with him, for I do not consider it prudent, or good farming, to be at the expense of cultivating an acre to get the same number of bushels that should grow on less than one-half of it. Here are a few figures to show what, to me, seems a better way.

I will take, as an example, an acre that was planted with corn in 1858, and this year planted without manure except a compost of hen manure, and put it at the rate of one pint to the hill. Allowing the same wages per day that Mr. P. does, the land to be worth $50 per acre, and the entire cost of the crop, interest, taxes and all, when the corn was in the crib, was $23,94. The income was:

56 bushels of sound corn	$56,00
20 bushels ears soft corn	5,00
Stover and turnips	15,00
Total	$76,00
Making a net profit of	$52,00

This crop, owing to the frosts and severe drought, was not considered a fair one, the same land producing 75 bushels per acre last year, of sound, shelled corn. These crops are not exceptions, although, perhaps, more than average ones, and farmers will invariably make a profit in rais-

ing a good crop, as the expense is but very little extra, except the manure, and here is the advantage which Mr. P. does not see, of feeding out the hay and grain, as it is the *manure* that makes the profitable crops.

When I read Mr. P.'s article I wondered that the farmers of New England had not all become bankrupt years ago; he says "they feed out their hay and grain at a loss of fifty per cent., to raise more at still another loss, and thus go on year after year." Still "we live, and move and have our being!" Let every farmer feed out his hay and grain prudently to good stock, and carefully save and apply his manure, and he will make more and more money every year; Mr. P. to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Now let us see if we can make our words good, —for figures are facts—and we do not want our "dollars and cents" to cost us too much. Take, for an example, 100 good ewe sheep, that can be bought for three dollars per head.

100 SHEEP.	DR.
To cost at $3 per head	$300,00
To keeping 1 year at $2	200,00
To washing	1,50
To shearing	6,00
To marking, carrying off wool, &c.	3,00
To interest, and taxes	20,00
Total	$530,50
	CR.
By 400 lbs. wool, at 50c	$200,00
By 75 lambs, at $2 per head	150,00
By old flock on hand	275,00
Total	$625,00
From which, allowing $25 for use of buck, leaves a net profit of	$69,50

Now, if we feed the fifty bushels of corn we raised, in addition to the above cost of keeping, we shall get one pound more wool per head, raise twenty more lambs, and have our old flock worth nearly as much as when we bought them. Let us see whether we lose fifty per cent. by feeding out the corn we have got:

100 pounds more wool	$50,00
20 more lambs, at $2 per head	40,00
And the additional value of old flock is	25,00
Making a total gain of	$115,00

Thus giving the corn a dollar and cent value of $2,50 per bushel, if judiciously fed out,—besides giving an additional profit of $65 on the stock, as the extra value of the manure will fully compensate for the trouble of feeding out the grain. Thus I have a net profit of $1,32½ cents per head for keeping the sheep one year. Rather different from raising calves, is it not, farmer Pinkham? These are not exaggerated figures, but what can easily be done by almost every farmer. To be sure, (as Mr. Pinkham says,) "our business is extremely hazardous;" we may, sometimes, by accident, or carelessness, have a cow choke to death; by over-work we may spoil an ox; a horse, by reckless driving and poor care, may get foundered; a drought may reduce our crops; hail-storms may damage us; and if, through our neglect, our fences are poor, there is more loss than by all the other causes combined. And yet, brother farmers, we are not the only class that run risks. Does not the merchant sometimes lose his ships freighted with valuable cargoes? are not his warehouses, filled with costly goods, sometimes burned, or, perhaps, a clerk will step out with $40,000 or so? And so of other cases.

Farmers do not expect to become millionaires, but if they manage properly, they are equally as independent, and no class enjoys that priceless blessing, health, better, or lives to a riper old age.

J. B. FREEMAN.

Lebanon, N. H., Nov. 25, 1859.

WHAT ENGLISH FARMERS WANT TO KNOW.

At a late meeting of the "Royal Agricultural Society of England," the following list of prizes for Essays was adopted. Possibly the republication of the subjects may furnish topics for brief dissertations to some New England farmers, who, if they should miss the "sovereigns," might enjoy the satisfaction of having stirred the minds of others in the right direction.

1. Fifty sovereigns for the best report on the agriculture of Berkshire.
2. Twenty sovereigns for an approved Essay on the best period of the rotation, and the best time of year for applying the manure of the farm.
3. Ten sovereigns for the best Essay on the alterations rendered advisable in the management of land of different qualities, by low prices of grain and high prices of meat.
4. Ten sovereigns for the best Essay on recent improvements in dairy practice.
5. Ten sovereigns for the best Essay on the proper office of straw on the farm.
6. Ten sovereigns for the best Essay on the amount of capital required for the profitable occupation of a farm.
7. Ten sovereigns for the best Essay on the conditions of seed-bed best suited to the various agricultural crops.
8. Ten sovereigns for the best Essay on the adulteration of agricultural seeds.
9. Ten sovereigns for the best Essay on any other agricultural subject.

For the New England Farmer.

PIPE FOR CONVEYING WATER.

MR. EDITOR:—I wish to take water from a well which is twenty feet deep, then carry it about one hundred feet on a level, to a pump. Can you, or some of your readers, inform me what kind of pipe is best to use, to carry it through? The water is good to drink, but rather hard, and I should not dare to use lead pipe; if the water was soft, I should put in lead, as I believe it is proved that soft water from wells, or any other source can not be injured by lead. Now what kind of pipe is best, wood, iron, glass, gutta-percha, or something else; and where can it be obtained? Also, please state something near the cost for one hundred and twenty feet, if it is not too much trouble.

Billerica, Jan., 1860. A READER.

REMARKS.—Some of our readers are conversant with these matters, and we hope will give the information desired. It is information that will be valuable to many persons.

USES AND VALUE OF MUCK---I.

DISPOSITION is shown by most persons to neglect the common blessings which strew their every-day paths, and to look at a distance, into their neighbor's field or manufactory, garden or study,—or into another town, or often a remote State, for them, where they fancy they may be obtained on easier terms than in their own fields, neighborhood or town. It was undoubtedly this restless desire that prompted Pope's line, that

Man never *is*, but always to be blest.

The farmer has not escaped the infection, but too often sees in other lands and avocations those advantages which he imagines cannot be realized upon his own acres and around his own hearthstone. The rainbow of promise, to him, continually looms up in the distance, while the dark clouds of discouragement hang gloomily over his present paths. Happily, the light of science has in a considerable degree dissipated these clouds, and opened the way for new practices in farming, and better views of man's power over the materials upon which he must work. This light now illumines, in a greater or less degree, the whole civilized world, and even darts its rays into the regions of heathenism, and where men have not emerged from a state of nature. And while it has shaken despotisms, and opened pathways between nations, it has led the tiller of the soil to investigations whose results are more valuable to the world than all the gold of the "far Cathay," or of the later mines of the Pacific coast. He has found the idea which prevailed so long, and which was nearly universal, that *profit in farming* could only be realized in the possession of large tracts of land, was an erroneous one; that land, *capital* and *skill* should bear relative proportions to each other, and that where these proportions did not exist failure was the result, sometimes ending in mortgaged estates and bankruptcy. The common expression now, therefore, is, that he must seek a *higher* cultivation,

ON LESS LAND, BUT WITH MORE SKILL AND FERTILIZING AGENTS.

It was this idea that led to the inventions to which we have alluded, and which resulted in the discovery of a material on a large proportion of our farms eminently calculated to restore exhausted lands to fertility, and to produce once more something like the amount of crops they yielded when in a virgin state. This discovery, through all the New England States, especially, has considerably changed the aspect of the soil and the crops, and connected with the idea of cultivating less land, but in a higher manner, has increased the property of the farmer to a degree which he had never before attained.

The value of farms in New England some thirty or forty years ago, was greatly depreciated by the presence of *bog* or *swampy* land, as it was considered nearly worthless for everything excepting the meagre timber or fuel which might be cut and hauled from it in the winter, or the scanty and coarse herbage it would afford to cattle during the time of short pasturage in our summer droughts.

The value of such lands has entirely changed, as where, at the former period, they would scarcely command five dollars an acre, they now bring from thirty to one hundred, and in the neighborhood of villages standing on plain or sandy lands, confer the greatest benefits in gardening, and are worth five hundred dollars an acre, provided the muck is of good quality, and the deposit is deep and of convenient access. Indeed, it is often said by those purchasing farms, that they would not enter upon one, unless it were well supplied with meadow muck, for it is this material and the barn-cellar, that, like the philosopher's stone, turn all they touch into gold. Though somewhat poetical, this language is not altogether extravagant; for on every farm in our knowledge where there is a good barn cellar, and the meadow muck abounds, thrift and prosperity are evident to every passer-by. Our range of observation has been somewhat extensive, and the use of muck has been the subject of our critical observation for many years.

These muck swamps were long avoided as a sort of tabooed territory, with scarcely sufficient tenacity to perform their part in "holding the world together:" in the winter, rabbits traversed them with their paths, and found feed in the bark of the young and tender shrubs, and in the summer, frogs croaked and slimy things disported themselves in security in their ancestral haunts. There snakes deposited their eggs in the rotten logs of an earlier growth, and from thence led their supple broods to the heated slopes and rocks to vivify and grow in the sun. Owls and bats came from their dark recesses in the twilight to feed on the denizens of the lighter and purer air, while the boy with his cows cast stealthy glances at the dark jungles, to see if ghosts and goblins were not issuing forth too.

WHERE MUCK IS MOSTLY FOUND.

It is in these long abandoned swamps that this treasure, this vast acquisition to our national wealth, is mainly found. In some cases, they are bordered by precipitous or abrupt hills, and the deposit in the basin there is usually deep, finely

pulverized, and mingled in some measure with mineral matter from the hills. In others, the high lands rise gradually, or what is quite often the case, the swamp is bordered on one or two sides with broad plains of sandy land, once covered with pitch pines, and possessing within themselves the essential elements of grain crops for an indefinite period. This condition of things reminds the observer of the deposits of coal and iron which frequently lie side by side in coal and iron regions, divided, perhaps, by a narrow valley, or a diminutive stream. Such boggy swamps are not strictly soils, but the collections of organic matter, mainly contributed by successive ages, into which has been mingled from the higher lands, most or all the minerals in a soluble form.

Sometimes, muck of the best quality is found in narrow valleys, and on quite high ground; but in such instances it is rarely more than three or four feet in depth, and thinning down towards the edges of the valley to a few inches. This is usually black, of a slippery, saponaceous appearance, and so thoroughly decomposed, that the sense of touch can detect no fibre or grit when rubbed between the fingers. On examining it through a microscope of high power, the fibres may be seen, though exceedingly minute, and in endless forms. This muck is perhaps the most valuable of any found for all the purposes for which it is used. It is always accessible, and may be applied to the land with safety after having been exposed to atmospheric influences for a few weeks only. After being thrown out and becoming dry, it is friable, and falls into a light, fine powder, and in that state is one of the most greedy absorbents in nature. Instances have come to our knowledge where this class of muck has been transferred to grass lands with admirable effect, without any seasoning, or "cooking," as some farmers term it, or without any mixture with barn-yard or specific manures, ashes or lime. When thrown out in ridges it soon becomes covered with a rank growth of weeds, or coarse grasses, or, what often occurs, a luxuriant growth of the wild raspberry. These are evidences of its virtues which cannot be mistaken, and are sufficient to settle the question of value. In our own garden culture we have for years used this kind of muck on cultivated raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, currants and gooseberries with the most satisfactory results. We also apply it as a mulch about young pear trees and young nursery trees, and find that it prevents excessive evaporation, and protects the tender roots from the scorching effects of our hot summer suns.

On the margins of some small streams in Massachusetts, we have visited extensive tracts, made up of muck varying in thickness from one foot to twenty feet in depth. It varies also in quality. These tracts are annually flooded in the spring, and succeeded by annual crops of coarse grasses which for many ages must have matured and fallen upon the spot, as there are no present evidences of a forest having stood there, though it is supposed they were remotely covered with a heavy growth of timber. They are almost always skirted by rolling hills on one side, and "pine plains" on the other; thus affording the farmer opportunity to reclaim the meadow itself, by drainage and an admixture of the gravel from the hills, or by transferring the muck to the sandy land, and restoring it to its original fertility. As in the coal and iron districts, nature has been affluent in her gifts to the husbandman in this particular; it is for him to seek her treasures, draw them from their hidden recesses, and make them bless the world, or mould them to his uses where they lie.

For the New England Farmer.

USES OF SEA-WEED.

For years I have been a reader of your valuable paper. Upon one subject I have seen very little written which we farmers on the sea-coast are much interested in, that is, *sea-weed*, for to that article we are mostly indebted for our hay crops. I find in the Fourth Annual Report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, 1859, this subject is taken up by S. P. MAYBERRY, of Cape Elizabeth, (to whom the readers of your paper are indebted for many timely hints.) He gives to the reader its office as designed by our holy Father, in the sea, and then its uses on the farm. More attention has been given within a few years in this vicinity to the hay crop than formerly; we find that two tons of hay can be produced from an acre of land, where we used to get but one; the extra amount more than paying for getting the land in a good state of cultivation. Many thanks to T. J. Pinkham for what he wrote relative to whether farming is profitable, as by that we have been enabled to get at the opinion of others. SENEX.

Yarmouth, Feb., 1860.

SCIENCE OF COMMON THINGS.

BY DAVID A. WELLS.

Why do bubbles rise to the surface, when a piece of sugar, wood or chalk is plunged under water?

Because the air or liquid contained in the pores becomes expanded by heat, and bursts the covering in which it is confined.

What are the sparks of fire which burst from the wood?

Very small pieces of wood made *red hot*, and separated from the log by the *force of the air* when it bursts from its confinement.

Why does light, porous wood make more snapping than any other kind?

Because the pores are *very large*, and contain *more air* than wood of a *closer grain*.

Why does green wood make less snapping than dry?

Because the pores, being filled with *sap*, contain *very little air*.

CRANBERRY CULTURE.

The following remarks in relation to the culture of the cranberry, were made at the recent session of the Maine State Board of Agriculture?

Mr. Dill said he had a small bog, in which there was a constant warfare between a species of laurel and cranberries. He cuts up the laurel, and uses it for banking to his house. After skimming off the surface, and carrying it away, he puts on sand. In the fall he flows, to defend from frost, and to keep the plants from being thrown out, and from a worm that infests them. He had procured plants from wild meadows, and from West Bridgewater, the Bell and the Cherry cranberry. He keeps the plants as carefully weeded as he does plants in his garden. He had tried carefully a few patches of the Bell that had produced at the rate of 150 bushels to the acre. He had the Bugle from Minnesota. He thinks pure, river sand the best article to use. The rows had better be two feet apart. They will not bear well till well matted. There is a finely bearing cranberry bed on a high, dry knoll near him. His natives do not do as well as those from Massachusetts and Wells. There is a high-bush cranberry growing near him, two kinds; one is well known, and the other is not. The latter is a few inches in height, and very pleasant to the taste. Some of these are now transplanted, to test the value for cultivation.

Mr. True had watched the cranberry culture closely. He had not felt well this fall when obliged to send to the western part of Oxford for cranberries, when we have everywhere plenty of bogs suitable for their culture. He spoke of a case where a man arranged a bog by plowing, &c., and then said to the plants and grass, "Go it, and see which will beat." He examined it at the time of fruiting, and he thought, without any culture, a pint bowl would cover enough to fill it. He knew of another place in Kennebec county, where less pains were taken, and greater success followed. Dr. T. obtained vines, and set them out, not in a suitable place, and in spite of frost, many of them were doing well. There are hosts of farmers in Maine whose bogs might be mines of wealth in this regard.

For the New England Farmer.

PROFITS OF DAIRY FARMING.

Mr. Editor:—I have read with attention the statistics of your correspondents from Chelmsford and Westboro', on the "Profits of Farming." I have also seen the meagre statement of what was said, by the dignitaries of the land, at the first of the farmers' meeting, on Monday evening last. Now, sir, without in any manner infringing the facts stated by others, I am free to say those coming from Westboro' strikes me as nearest the mark. I have certainly known many cases, where a herd of half a dozen cows have yielded from their milk alone a profit of $30 each, during the year. And if Mr. Quincy's view of the value of the manure that can be made from a cow, be at all correct, (and I know not why it should not be, as he is an honorable man, and the son of a truly intelligent, practical farmer,) then, sir, it is clear that the keeping of good dairy stock may be made a profitable business. The first experiment of the kind to which my attention was drawn, was conducted by Col. Jesse Putnam, of Danvers, (more than forty years ago,) who still lives, at near ninety years of age. He made from seven cows, an average to a cow of 187 pounds of butter, in the course of six months, which sold for 25 cents a pound. On my father's farm I have known a product from cows quite as good as this, when I assisted in milking them, though I cannot state the particulars. South Danvers.

AN INTERESTING REVIVAL.

Farming, as well as commerce and manufactures, has always had its periods of decline, revival and success, and these have been caused by the depression or prosperous condition of other business. When commerce and manufactures are paralyzed in any degree, the mechanic arts feel it at once; so the ship, house and store building, and all the various handicrafts, are paralyzed or suspended, and the attention of thousands is naturally turned to the soil.

The revulsion of 1857 had this result in some degree, and undoubtedly turned many to the country who had been engaged in trade or in the arts. But beyond all these contingencies, there is a sound, and what will prove a permanent revival and interest in the business of cultivating the soil; a higher appreciation of the sure and remunerative results of the occupation, and a deeper love for a calling which tends more than all others to promote health, to lead the mind to the highest contemplations of truth and duty, to save from the destructive tendencies of rapidly increasing wealth, or the equally rapid descent to poverty, and to ennoble and dignify our natures to the highest points of excellence and virtue.

The present is one of those periods when attention is turned in an unusual degree to agricultural life, and when inquiries are earnest and frequent as to what modes of farming will produce the most sure and profitable results. The action of the State Board of Agriculture in aiding the establishment and encouragement of farmers' clubs, is arousing the attention of all classes of people throughout the State. Under the auspices of the Board, we have recently visited several towns, and find that the people have taken hold of the work themselves, and have taken hold in the right way.

Early in January, we had the pleasure of visiting the farmers of Franklin, in Norfolk county, and of addressing them upon the objects which the Board of Agriculture have in contemplation. We scarcely know whether farming is the leading pursuit in this town, as there are five manufactories of bonnets in the village, employing about 200 females and 100 males. Many of the bonnets, however, are made in the families of this and the neighboring towns. By far the greater portion of

the persons employed are of this description, and number about 900. The amount of sales is $400,000 annually. All kinds of bonnets are made. The *stock* of most of the "lace" or fancy hats is imported from England, Italy and Switzerland. The nicest laces, made of horse hair, come from Switzerland, made of hair imported from South America at prices almost fabulously cheap, showing that the wages of those who manufacture them must be at the starvation point. The most expensive and fashionable bonnets are made, however, by Yankee girls, of rye straw. The names of the firms are A. E. Daniels & Son, H. M. Green & Baker, Davis Thayer, Jr., A. H. Morse & H. C. Fisher.

Franklin was once, we believe, an agricultural town of considerable note, but for several years past her farming interests have shared but too largely in the general decline, aggravated no doubt by the superior attractions which the manufacture of straw has presented to the young men. There are encouraging signs, however, that farming has reached its lowest point, and that it has already begun to ascend again. Among those who have aided in this good work are Dr. OLIVER DEAN, who, after a life of successful enterprise, has returned to his native town, purchased a farm and is showing his neighbors the value of scientific farming; Dr. S. ATWOOD, who has been turning his attention to stock-raising; E. A. METCALF, who has entered somewhat largely into reclaiming waste lands with great success. Dr. E. A. MILLER, of Dorchester, a native of this town, has entered upon the culture of the *cranberry* on a large scale. He has some fifteen acres of meadows which he can cover with water in two or three hours, so as to protect them from frost or from the cranberry worm when the young fruit has just set. He has expended some $7000 in his operations. The plants are just beginning to return to him something of this outlay. Last fall he gathered 80 or 90 barrels, which, at the high prices cranberries commanded, paid a handsome return on the cost. Mr. WHITING METCALF has entered somewhat largely and successfully upon the enterprise of transplanting forest trees, mostly pines.

A *Farmers' Club* has been formed, and an eligible room fitted up for its accommodation, and it has a library of well-selected agricultural books. In this room is the identical library given by Dr. Franklin, in 1786, for the honor conferred on him of calling the town by his name.

Several distinguished men have originated in Franklin, and among them Hon. THERON METCALF, of the Supreme Court; the late Judge EMMONS, of Maine; HORACE MANN and Prof. FISHER, of Yale College, who gave promise of being one of the most distinguished mathematicians of our country, but who died young, being lost by the wreck of "The Albion," on the coast of Ireland, in 1822.

Hon. JABEZ FISHER was a citizen of Franklin. He was for more than fifty years a deacon of the church, and for about twenty years he represented the town in the Legislature of the State, either as a member of the House or of the Senate, or of the Governor's Council. He was prominent in the days and deeds of our revolutionary struggles, and is said to have originated the oft-quoted phrase—"The times that tried men's souls."

We intended to speak of visits to Waltham, North Wrentham and Southboro', but have already occupied all the room we can spare at present.

For the New England Farmer.

FARMERS' CLUBS AND AGRICULTURAL FAIRS.

MR. BROWN:—I saw in the *Farmer* a communication from Mr. Flint, stating that towns wishing to form clubs can have assistance from an agent sent at the State's expense. I regret that our farmers are not capable of forming clubs for themselves. Farmers' clubs are useful, and where farmers take an interest in farming, they will meet and form clubs without any assistance from the State. The majority of farmers of this State do not want any aid from a source they are taxed to pay for; what we want most is to lessen our taxes. We are spending a large amount of money every year on our county societies, which were intended to benefit the farming community, but, I am sorry to say, are doing but little good, under the present management. Those societies have expended large sums for land and board fences to pen up all manner of exciting shows, to entice young and old to go in and pay their quarters to see the sights they have collected, and so we are taxed twice to see what does but little good. The working farmer gets but little of the premium money. Most of it is taken by men of large means who have bought farms that have been improved by good farmers, and our societies are managed principally by such men.

Market fairs have been much talked about of late. I have thought very favorably of them, but I do not think they will remedy all the evils that some do. As to speculators, or middlemen, they can buy at market fairs as well as others. But the middlemen are not so much at fault as many think they are; for the consumers' way of living is such at the present time that, if it was not for the middlemen, I think some of them would go without their dinner, for a large part of them live from hand to mouth. As the fashions were once, when professional men and mechanics laid up their winter provisions, market fairs would have been a help to both farmer and consumer. But our sons and daughters are not educated to know how to live; they are kept at school till they lose their health, and then what they learn is of but little practical use. A large part of them who get married at the present day would not know what to do with two or three months' pro-

visions, if they should happen to have so much at one time.

Some persons inquire what has caused the interest now taken in farming? I say in answer that it is the increased reading of agricultural publications, and town agricultural societies and clubs. Where we see a farm under good cultivation, and all kinds of fruit trees that look healthy, we can safely say that farmer reads, and most likely the *Farmer* is one of his papers, together with some good books. I attribute my success in farming considerably to this. G. S.

Leominster, Mass., Jan., 1860.

For the New England Farmer.

CLUB-FOOTED CABBAGES.

I notice in the last number of the *Farmer*, an article from the *Michigan Farmer* on the subject of club-footed cabbages. It appears to me the writer is somewhat fanciful in supposing that the cabbage, in a strait for moisture, attempts to imitate the bulbous rooted vegetables to avoid the effects of the drought, and so assumes a club foot. In my youth, I was familiar with club-footed cabbages, as they were a constant pest in my father's garden; that garden was far from being a dry one. I scarcely ever knew it to fail on that account. That fact weighs strongly against this Michigan theory. Our garden was an old one, and used as such a long time. We could not depend on getting healthy cabbage plants in the garden, and had to use a patch of new ground in some other place, or depend on our neighbors. Frequently, good healthy plants set in that garden would become club or pumple-footed, as we used to call them. We then attributed this tendency to club foot to its being old in cultivation, and filled with some worm or maggot that got into the root of the plant and irritated it so as to produce the club; like the sting of an insect in an oak leaf, which produces oak apples, so called. These apples are well known to be nurseries of a numerous progeny. So the sting of a Canada plum will produce a long, leathery, purse-like covering of a new race of the insect.

I have of late years seldom noticed the club foot in cabbages, but I have seen some once or twice in my garden in a very moist place. I do not remember of examining the club feet to find the grub that caused them, but the impression was so deep and general that no such examination was thought necessary. I have supposed that the grub or fly that deposited the egg so common sixty years ago, might, like many others, have become temporarily extinct, or nearly so, in certain localities, and would, like the caterpillar or canker worm, again at some time renew their mischief.

This Michigan writer, if he observes carefully, will find this supposed expedient of the cabbages to gather moisture by means of a club foot to be a total failure, as the first indication of this disease is the wilting of the plant in a hot sun, while the healthy plants, with their natural fibrous roots, look green, and are indeed in the height of their thrift. So much for theory, not sustained by facts. RUFUS MCINTIRE.

Parsonsfield, Me., Jan. 2, 1860.

MASS. STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture had a session at the State House in Boston, commencing on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 1860, nearly every member being present. An earnest spirit seemed to animate the whole Board, and various topics were introduced, discussed and decided upon. Mr. ATWATER, of Springfield, reported upon the subject of *Root Crops*. Mr. R. S. FAY, of Lynn, read a report upon *Agricultural Education*, which led to a most interesting discussion on the subject, and clearly showing that this matter is considered of vital importance, to secure a better understanding of the principles and laws which govern the art, and upon which its general prosperity and profit depend. Dr. LORING, of Salem, offered the following resolutions, which were adopted with great unanimity:

Resolved, That the Committee upon *Agricultural Education* be and hereby are authorized to obtain an elementary manual of agriculture for the use of our common schools, to be submitted to this Board for approval.

Resolved, That the said Committee be requested to cause to be introduced the aforesaid manual, when approved by this Board, into the common schools of Massachusetts, in the manner provided for the introduction of school books by the laws of the Commonwealth, and that said committee be authorized to apply to the Legislature for the passage of an act for the accomplishment of this object. The committee entrusted with this duty are Messrs. R. S. FAY, of Lynn, M. P. WILDER, of Dorchester, SIMON BROWN, of Concord, G. B. LORING, of Salem, and JABEZ FISHER, of Fitchburg.

Mr. CHARLES G. DAVIS, of Plymouth, made a carefully drawn report upon the subject of *Market Days*.

At a meeting of the Board, Jan. 5, the following preamble and resolution were passed:

Whereas, it is made the duty of the State Board of Agriculture, among other things, to make such suggestions to the Legislature, with regard to the interests of agriculture, as may seem advisable,

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Board it is not expedient to incorporate any more societies receiving the bounty of the State.

WINTERING STOCK.

The following report of a discussion of this topic, at a meeting of farmers in Milford, N. H., is furnished by the editor of the *Journal of Agriculture*:

Zebediah Abbott, of Wilton, mixes good and poor hay together, instead of feeding separately, and believes it pays well. Thinks stock should come out better, or as well, at least, in spring as they were in the fall. Will use his straw to mix with his hay as he puts it into the barn next summer—stock will eat it all clean. Keeps cows—feeds them in the morning with hay and turnips—turns out at eleven—ties up at three P. M., and feeds hay; at dark feeds with shorts, cob-meal and cotton seed, mixed and cooked in scalding water. It is a good cow that gives seven quarts of milk a day during winter. The speaker wished to know if more Indian meal should be used. The President said that enough Indian meal should be fed to keep the cow in good flesh and in good heart.

Mr. Hazeltine, of Amherst, said he raised young stock, and wished to learn the best way of keeping it. Don't believe in starving stock; is in fa-

vor of cutting feed, especially straw and corn fodder, and believes it pays; it also pays to wet the feed—it makes it more like pasture feed in spring and summer; is in favor of roots—they moisten the dry feed; thinks farmers should try them—try experiments.

Col. Wilkins, of Amherst, said he feeds out much meadow hay. Feeds three times in morning, and three at night; likes roots—prefers the mangold; keeps stock out of doors from ten to three, P. M.; wished to know if stock can be kept on good hay entirely, and come out in good flesh in the spring? The President thought it would, if properly fed. Feeding has much to do with the health of stock. Cuts his butts and poor hay, and mixes them together.

Mr. Hazeltine said stock should gain in winter—no farmer should be satisfied to have it fall away—it is a dead loss; should feed grain—not sell hay, but feed it out.

Levi McIntire, of Milford, thought it would do to buy manure and sell hay. Farmers should save all their night soil. Never allows an animal to go down on his hands. Thinks cut feed good for some horses, and bad for others.

J. Cleaves, of Mt. Vernon, don't like work well enough to cut hay; don't want poor hay all eat up—wants enough left for litter. Feeds poor hay and turnips. No trouble in having stock come out in good shape in spring; should be stabled most of the time.

Levi McIntire said a frequent change of feed is good; stock does better to keep it still.

J. Cleaves thinks old meadow hay the best—the older the better. Meadow hay kept till four years old is as good as money at nine per cent. Gives oats to oxen in the spring, especially hot-natured ones.

MAINE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The *Maine State Board of Agriculture* recently held a several days' session in the State House at Augusta, elected officers, transacted other business, and then discussed several leading agricultural subjects, among which were, "*What measures can be adopted to secure a uniform annual profit in farming?*" "*On the composition of soils, and on the preparation and application of Manures.*" Several other important topics were presented as being worthy of careful consideration. In the course of discussion, Mr. ANDERSON, from Cumberland, said that there had been more improvement in that county resulting from the influence of the county society, than in any previous year. Draining had been followed more than ever, and with good results. A manufacturer of tile in the county found it difficult to manufacture fast enough to supply the demand. He spoke of the great destruction of sheep by dogs. Mr. CUSHMAN said he had lost $200 at least in sheep, by his neighbors' dogs. Mr. WASSON, of Franklin, believed that more sheep were killed by dogs than by all diseases and all other animals put together—dogs are the greatest obstacles in the way of sheep husbandry. Mr. LANCASTER, of South Kennebec, thought sheep raising as profitable as stock. Mr. HAMMOND, of Piscataqua, said a lawyer commenced farming in his vicinity many years ago, and has beat the whole county, as a farmer.

The subject of the *Cranberry* and the *Grape*, was discussed, and many interesting points introduced. Mr. MARTIN, of West Danville, said that in applying manure, he thought the nearer the top of the ground the better.

The discussions seem to us to have been animated, and included many points of great interest. The views generally expressed were eminently practical, and will be likely to attract a new interest in the Board. The following is a list of the officers:

President—HON. ISAAC REED.
Vice President—JOHN F. ANDERSON, Esq.
Secretary—S. L. GOODALE, Esq.
Messenger—FRANCIS FULLER.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

MEADOW HARDHACK—IRON GRIST MILL.

Can you, or any of your correspondents, inform me how to rid a meadow from a bush called hardhack? What kind of grain will grow most profitably on a meadow composed of black muck about one foot deep, then of white sand? Will it be good economy to plow deep enough to mix the sand with the muck?

Also, the price of the portable iron grist mills, of both sizes, that were illustrated in Vol. XIV., No. 10, of the *New England Farmer*, and monthly for 1859, page 198. A. W. T.

Roxbury, Me., 1860.

REMARKS.—Drainage and cultivation will drive the "hardhack" out. From what we can judge of your meadow, by what you say of it, we should think the best course to take would be to plant it with potatoes one or two years, and then lay it down to grass. Such lands are not usually adapted to grains. A little of the sand you speak of mixed with the surface soil will be advantageous.

The Portable Iron Grist Mills are for sale, we believe, by Nourse, Mason & Co., Quincy Hall.

SICK CATTLE.

In last week's *Farmer* I read the account of Mr. Cheney's loss of cattle. It may be that the passage through the manyplus becomes inflamed and dry, so that nothing can pass it. A remedy for all kinds of stoppage, or bloat from any cause, is, vinegar and chalk. One pint of vinegar, and chalk the size of an egg, pounded fine. It must be administered quick, for no bottle is strong enough to hold it when mixed. E. POWERS.

Brimfield, Mass., 1860.

REMARKS.—We know nothing of the remedy prescribed above, and suggest that it be resorted to with great caution, and never without the advice of some person pretty well acquainted with managing stock. Vinegar and chalk may seem to

most of us a simple mixture, but the chemist may see in it the most decided elements of destruction.

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QUALITY OF MILK.

My attention has been arrested by a discussion between "Norfolk," and "Suffolk," as published in the *Transcript*. It is, indeed, an interesting topic, though I thought it had been very satisfactorily settled, by the authority of Mr. Secretary Flint, in his work on "Dairy Farming." I take the liberty to suggest this might be a useful subject for discussion at one of your Legislative Agricultural meetings.

I remember when I used to milk cows, my mother, who was a well-skilled manager of a dairy, could readily judge of the feed of cows by the quality of their milk. In fact, she would detect a change of pastures in the course of one week. Now, if this difference from the variation of feed on a farm was so great as this, that an artless woman could detect it unerringly, with no other lactometer than a skimming shell and a churn, is it not strange that learned chemists should be bothered in prescribing rules for determining whether or not milk has been adulterated?

Jan. 25, 1860. ESSEX.

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CROPS IN ILLINOIS.

Distance alone prevents my laying some specimens of our "Egyptian" fruits and vegetables upon your table. My largest sweet potato from the garden last fall weighed 7 3-16 lbs., when clean washed, and several others 3 to 5 lbs. each.

The birds here will eat strawberries, raspberries, grapes, &c., to our great annoyance. They even indulge their appetites upon our early peaches, which we begin to enjoy about the eighth or tenth of July. Your city and vicinity consumes quite a quantity of extra white flour from this place, but the best quality, I am told by our millers, does not pay quite as well in your market as the No. 2 brand. J. H. JONES.

Chester, Ill., 1860.

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SUBSOIL PLOWS—BONE FOR MANURE.

Will you inform me where I can get one and two horse steel subsoil plows, Mapes' pattern, and at what price?

Also, dry ground or crushed bone for manure, in small quantity, say eight or ten hundred pounds, and the price? A. L. PATRIDGE.

Peacham, Vt., 1860.

REMARKS.—The price of the plows inquired for above is $8 for the small size, and $11 for the large.

Dry ground bone for manure is $25 a ton. These articles may be found at Nourse & Co.'s, 34 Merchants' Row, Boston.

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WORMS IN HORSES.

I wish to inquire through the columns of the *Farmer* what will cure worms in horses. By giving such information you will oblige.

Candia, N. H., 1860. M. VARNUM.

REMARKS.—See *Farmer* of last week in answer to "Subscriber, Exeter, N. H."

For the New England Farmer.

CONGRATULATIONS—BEES—WARTS—COAL-ASHES.

First—I congratulate the publishers of the *New England Farmer* in their success in getting out from week to week one of the very best agricultural papers published in this country. Its extended and increasing circulation, if nothing more were wanting, is proof of this. Its varied contents are wholesome, sound and practical, both in its farm and moral character. If there be those who question this, I ask them to compare the *Farmer* with any or all other agricultural papers they please. "By their works ye shall know them."

Secondly—Those persons who have bees should not neglect to examine each and every hive during such weather as we have had during the past few weeks. See that there is not too much moisture in the hive, and if so, give the bees more air, and keep the hive as free from filth and dirt as possible. In case I find any of my bees getting short of food, I take some of the warmest days and put in a few spoonfuls of honey and let it run down anywhere among the bees. Last winter I kept two swarms alive by now and then putting up between the combs a few sticks of pure sugar candy, and renewing it when eaten up. Bees are very fond of this. I am well satisfied that most persons, except the really experienced, who keep bees do not give them air enough. My way is, to give them air enough, so as to prevent any accumulation of moisture on the inside—not wholly—for this cannot be done with safety to the bees in cold weather, but to admit all the air which safety to the bees will admit of. The past season was a bad one for bees in this section; out of six stocks with which I begun in the spring, and all in good condition, I did not get a swarm, and only about fifty pounds of honey. Such luck is unusual.

Thirdly—Warts—I have seen, of late, inquiries in the *Farmer* for a remedy to remove warts from cattle. I have often done this by rubbing them every day with whale oil. From one trial with rosin oil it did the work quicker and more easily than whale oil. I have found turpentine, such as may be gathered from the ends of green pine logs—one of the very best remedies for removing warts, either from cattle, or on man, that can be found. Gather enough to cover the wart and bind it on the part, and let it remain for two or three days, and the wart will come off, root and branch.

Fourthly—It will take a long time before any person can convince me that there is no virtue in coal ashes as a manure, particularly for grass land; and if the soil is light and sandy, so much the more and better will be its effect. Let those who doubt this make a pile of it in any grass field they please, and if the grass is not larger and more thrifty about the pile than where there is no ashes, then I give it up. N. Q. T.

King Oak Hill, Jan., 1860.

BEST FOUR GRAPES.—"The Grape Growers' Association" of Hartford, Ct., at a meeting, Jan. 10th, recommended the following varieties for general cultivation, in the order in which they are named: Diana, Hartford Prolific, Isabella, Concord.

FOUR OF THE GRASSES.

Through the kindness of Mr. Secretary FLINT, we are enabled to present the reader with illustrations of four of the grasses common to our New England farms, and just in season to bring them to mind in order to make preparations for spring sowing. The description of these grasses we copy from FLINT'S *"Grasses and Forage Plants,"* a book which every farmer who wishes more thoroughly to understand his business ought to possess.

Before the season for sowing clover, we intend to give four more varieties, viz.: the *Timothy, Meadow Foxtail, June,* or *Kentucky Grass,* and the *Meadow Fescue.*

RED TOP.

This valuable grass, so common in all our cultivated fields, has been an inhabitant of our soils for more than a century. It is of somewhat slow growth, but of good or medium quality. It is suited to moist soils, though common to all. This grass is probably rather overrated by us. It makes a profitable crop for spending; not so large a crop is obtained as from Herds-grass. It is a good permanent grass, and consequently well suited to our pastures, standing our climate as well as any other grass. It should be fed close in pastures, for if allowed to grow up to seed, the cattle refuse it; this fact seems to show that it is not so much relished by cattle as some of the other pasture grasses.—The fact that stock eat any grass greedily in the spring, is no proof of its excellence, or nutritious qualities; since then all grasses are tender and full of juice, and many varieties of both grasses and shrubs are readily eaten, which at a more advanced stage of growth are refused.

This grass goes by various names, and is greatly modified by soil and cultivation. On a moist, rich soil, it grows larger than on a poor thin soil, and not only larger, but has a darker, purplish color, with a stem varying from eighteen inches to two feet or two and a half feet high; while on thin, poor, gravelly soils, it seldom grows over twelve inches, and often not over five or six inches high, while it has a lighter color.

ORCHARD GRASS.

Orchard grass flowers in dense tufts. Its stem is erect, about three feet high. Root perennial.

Flowers in June and July. Not uncommon in fields and pastures. This is one of the most valuable and widely known of all the pasture grasses. It became, soon after its introduction into England, an object of special agricultural interest among cattle feeders, having been found to be exceedingly palatable to stock of all kinds. Its rapidity of growth, the luxuriance of its aftermath and its power of enduring the cropping of cattle, com-

mend it highly to the farmer's care, especially as a pasture grass. As it blossoms earlier than Timothy, and about the time of red clover, it makes an admirable mixture with that plant, to cut in the blossom and cure for hay. As a pasture grass it should be fed close, both to prevent its forming thick tufts and to prevent its running to seed, when it loses a large proportion of its nutritive matter, and becomes hard and wiry. All kinds of stock eat it greedily when green.

Judge Buel, distinguished as a man of taste, said of this grass. "I should prefer it to almost every other grass, and cows are very fond of it." Elsewhere he says: "The American Cocksfoot or Orchard Grass is one of the most abiding grasses we have. It is probably better adapted than any other grass to sow with clover and other seeds for permanent pasture or for hay, as it is fit to cut with clover and grows remarkably quick when cropped by cattle. Five or six days' growth in summer suffices to give a good bite. Its good properties consist in its early and rapid growth, and its resistance of drought; but all agree that it should be closely cropped. Sheep will pass over every other grass to feed upon it. If suffered to grow long without being cropped it becomes coarse and harsh. Colonel Powell, (a late eminent farmer of Pennsylvania,) after growing it ten years, declares that it produces more pasturage than any other grass he has seen in America. On being fed very close, it has produced good pasture after remaining five days at rest. It is suited to all arable soils. Two bushels of seed are requisite for an acre when sown alone, or half this quantity when sown with clover.

Orchard grass is less exhausting to the soil than rye grass or Timothy. It will endure considerable shade. In a porous subsoil its fibrous roots extend to a great depth. Its habit of growth unfits it for a lawn grass. Its seed weighs twelve pounds to the bushel, and to sow alone, about twenty-four pounds to the acre are required to make sure of a good crop. It should not be sown alone except for the sake of raising the seed. It is worthy of a much more extended cultivation among us.

WHITE CLOVER.

White clover is widely diffused over this country and all the countries of Europe. It is indigenous probably both to England and America.

When first cultivated from seed collected from wild plants, at the beginning of the last century, it was recorded of a farmer that he had "sowed the wild white clover which holds the ground and decays not." Its chief value is as a pasture grass, and it is as valuable for that purpose as the red clover is for hay or soiling, though there are some who place a low estimate upon it. It easily accommodates itself to a great variety of soils, but grows most luxuriantly in moist grounds and moist or wet seasons. Indeed, it depends so much upon a general distribution of rains through the season, that when they are sufficiently abundant it comes in profusely even where it was not observed in other years, and hence such seasons pass under the term of "clover years." It is not apparently so much relished by stock as from its sweetness we should be led to expect, but it is, on the whole, to be cherished for permanent pastures, and improved, as it undoubtedly may be, by a proper selection and culture of varieties.

RED CLOVER.

Red clover, though not properly included in the family of grasses, is now not only extensively cultivated, but is found to be one of the most valuable and economical forage plants. It belongs to the pulse family, or *leguminosæ*, which includes the larger portion of forage plants called artificial grasses, in distinction from the gramineæ, the true, and often called the natural grasses. The generic name, trefoil, or trifolium, is derived from the Latin *tres*, three, and *folium*, a leaf; and the genus can generally be very readily distinguished by the number and arrangement of its leaves in three leaflets, and flowers in dense, oblong or globular heads.

Clover is very properly regarded as a fertilizer of the soil. The action of its long and powerful tap roots is not only mechanical—loosening the soil and admitting the air—but also chemical, serving to fix the gases important to enrich the earth, and when these roots decay they add largely to that black mass of matter we call the soil. It serves, also, by its luxuriant foliage, to destroy annual weeds which would spring up on newly seeded land, especially after imperfect cultivation.

Another great advantage in favor of the cultivation of clover consists in its rapid growth. But a few months elapse from the sowing of the seed before it yields, ordinarily, an abundant and nutritious crop, relished by cattle of all kinds.

Clover seed should always be sown in the spring of the year, in the climate of New England. It is often sown upon the late snows of March or April, and soon finds its way down to the soil, where, aided by the moisture of early spring, it quickly germinates and rapidly shoots up its leaf stalks.

For the New England Farmer

A SHORT TALK ABOUT SHEEP.

Sheep often become breachy from carelessness. It does not require remarkably good fences to turn them. I have kept sheep for 20 years or more on land fenced almost entirely with stone walls, and find no difficulty in keeping them quiet and orderly. In the first place, select those that have not learned to jump; have all gaps properly repaired, and fasten the bars so that the sheep can not rub them down. As a rule, look at each flock once a day at least, and see that the fences are kept up, and give them enough to eat, and my experience is that sheep will not learn to jump. Sheep have long been a favorite stock with me, and for the last ten or twelve years South Downs have been *the sheep*. I have found that 50 ewes well kept will generally raise 75 lambs; mine have frequently done better. The past year I raised 110 from 72, and part of the ewes were quite young, and the lambs dropped early. After they are two years old the ewes are very apt to bring twins, so that in some flocks twins seem to be the rule and single ones the exception.

I often see notices of the best breed of sheep. Perhaps there is no one breed best for all farmers, yet the Downs, I think, are destined to occupy a large space in New England. They are not so large as the Leicester and long wooled breeds, but I think they are more hardy, and sufficiently large for our soil and situation. The fine quality of the mutton is universally acknowledged, and they often attain a very respectable size. I keep mine in pretty good sized flocks, and the largest lamb I ever owned I think weighed 139 pounds. I have this winter weighed one that brought up 119 lbs. readily. Others may have them larger. I have not had extra size particularly in view, but expect to have yearlings next autumn that will weigh 140 to 180. I have sold 60 for breeding purposes the past year; slaughtered 5 at home, and sold 31 to the butcher. Bought one and lost one lately, and have now on hand 14 more than I sheared. Breeders of the best sheep must look to their laurels, for the South Downs will most assuredly make their mark pretty high on the list of good stock.

AQUIDNECK.

For the New England Farmer.

WHERE TOMATO KETCHUP COMES FROM!

"Do you ever have anything cheap in your line that will answer for hog feed?" I inquired, of a Boston dealer in country produce, the other day. "Yes," he replied, "we oftentimes have waste potatoes, sometimes waste beans, waste cheese, and in former years I have sold large quantities of dried apples after they had become of a venerable age, at as low a figure as one cent a pound." "Have you any for sale at present?" I inquired. "No, bless you," said he, "we dealers have a better use for them now-a-days; we make them into tomato ketchup. I myself have made it by the ton with not a tomato in it; nothing but dried apples!" What a humbug this honest looking man is, was my instantaneous thought. But Chemistry here interposed, and said, "Not so fast, not so fast! What's in a name? Is not the characteristic acid of the tomato and the apple the same? viz.: malic acid; and in dried or preserved fruits is not the flavor dependent almost wholly on the characteristic acid, most of the more delicate flavors of the fresh fruit being too subtle to be retained by such processes? Now the quantity of malic acid in the ripe tomato exceeds that in the ripe apple; but when the apple is dried, and particularly when it becomes very dry by age, and the acid thus greatly concentrated, may not the proportionate difference be lessened, and thus in all essential characteristics your apple ketchup become tomato ketchup?"

I was not quite prepared to meet this foil, and so was content to hold my tongue, and ponder on the wonderful capacities of a science that could so readily transform a rogue into an honest man.

Marblehead, Mass. JAMES J. H. GREGORY.

For the New England Farmer.

INSECTS---ORCHARDS---BUTTER.

Borers—Sugar Orchards—Lawton Blackberry—Coloring Matter for Butter—Scalding Milk.

MR. EDITOR:—In the course of my agricultural reading, I occasionally find subjects for a reply or a few remarks, and I propose to bring up several of these for your columns at this time. First, I will speak of several communications in reply to your "Sandy River" correspondent, in reference to some apple trees which were diseased on the south side.

The general tendency of these articles is to show that exposure to the sun, or some such cause, induced disease first, and the borer attacked them afterward. The tenor of these articles is so much like an article in the *Horticulturist* for January, that I quote a few lines from that journal. "Insects do not possess the power of raising up the bark from the wood. The borers merely perforate it. When we discover different insects lurking between the bark and the wood, we must not accuse them of mischief, but we must attribute the separation of the two component parts of a tree either to some injury from without, or to disease from within." * * * "I invite the attention of the anxious reader to any tree at which the *Scolytus* is pursuing his ordinary calling. Then let him examine the same tree during the following summer, and he will find the little round holes in the bark just as the insect had made them. After this let him take a gimlet and bore as many dozens of holes as he may think fit in the sound bark of some undeniably healthy trees. The next summer he will find every gimlet hole made up by new bark under the old." Now I am no entomologist, and know nothing of the *Scolytus*, and I will also admit that diseased trees are more likely to be attacked by borers, but with all due deference to these writers, who have, very likely, had many years more experience than I have, I must say that I know that one species of borer, at least, (a *Saperda*, I suppose), does attack healthy trees, and that although it may "not have power to raise the bark," it eats out the cambium, and thus separates the bark from the wood, and the castings of the insect seem to poison the wood, and thus retard the natural growing over.

SUGAR ORCHARDS.—In your weekly of January 7, Mr. "A. Pixley" recommends planting sugar maples on stony hill-sides. I have a sugar orchard

on the top, and just over the east side of a hill, and I think it yields more sap and of better quality than on level land, and the leaves not only keep the land on which the trees stand in the highest state of fertility, but a nearly equal area on the side of the hill below is kept in quite a productive state; and this land being sheltered by a belt of timber on the south, and by high hills on the opposite side of the valley east and northeast, I have planted a small orchard of apple trees upon it, and by throwing brush on the land to catch the leaves, I succeed in getting a better growth than on another orchard on good level land well cultivated. I have another suggestion for those who are planting sugar orchards, which, though it may be thought visionary, I offer for what it is worth. Probably no one who has been extensively engaged in the manufacture of maple sugar has failed to observe a great difference in the quantity and quality of the sap from different trees, while occasionally a tree combines an abundant flow of sap, with an extra proportion of saccharine matter. Now, if we are about to plant trees for sugar making, the profits would be doubled at once if by any means we could produce a whole plantation like the best single trees.

Does any one know what would be the effect on the sap, if the young trees were grafted close to the ground with scions from the best sugar trees? I think some of your Vermont correspondents would confer a favor upon your readers by a full description of the improved apparatus used in the making of sugar in that State, including the tubular heaters, drawing off sap with a syphon, &c, &c. The comparative value of maple sugar is an item I would like to have decided by Dr. Jackson, or some other chemist. On this subject, I take the following apparently editorial from the *American Agriculturist*, (July, 1859,) a paper, by the way, which I usually consider as reliable as any other: "Three pounds of maple sugar are worth as much for sweetening as two pounds of New Orleans or West India sugar—not more. Maple molasses also holds about the same proportion in value. Such facts, we presume, no advocate of maple sugar or molasses will deny." Now I had supposed there were two kinds of sugar, "cane sugar" and "glucose or grape sugar," and that sugar from the maple was identical with the former; if so, I cannot see why, when equally pure and dry, it should not sweeten as much as cane sugar.

The Lawton Blackberry.—*January, 21st.*—My first impression on reading the reply of your New Bedford correspondent, was that he had "an axe to grind," but on examination of *Tucker's Rural Register*, I found no name corresponding to his initials, so I conclude that either he is not well acquainted with the best wild varieties, and consequently satisfied with a lower standard of quality, or that the Lawton does much better in warm localities. That mine are true to name, I feel sure, for they were obtained of a responsible dealer, and correspond exactly to the description and illustrations of that berry, and I certainly allowed some of them fair time to ripen, for I tried them at all stages, from the time they were well colored until they began to decay.

Coloring Matter for Butter.—*January* 28.—I think I am safe in concluding that "South Danvers" is not himself a farmer, and I imagine your farming friends will give him more credit for respect to his mother, than for skill in the dairy. Coloring butter in the summer months is not practiced by any one, so far as I know, but I never yet saw cows of ordinary richness fed so "generously" in winter as to make very yellow butter, and I have seen some that were well fed, too. I am well aware there is a prejudice against the practice of coloring butter, and I shared it myself, until experience convinced me it improved not only the color, but the quality of winter butter, to add a little orange carrot juice, and I believe this is the universal opinion of those who have given it a fair trial. I would not, however, use so large an amount as some of your correspondents advise; a little practice will soon decide the proper quantity. To prepare the carrots, I take a small milk-pan, a leaky one will do just as well, and punch holes through the bottom, and holding it inverted over a larger one, grate the carrots on it; then add a little milk and strain through a cloth and mix with the cream. I select the highest colored carrots for the purpose. I doubt not many of our Boston customers use a large quantity of butter prepared in this way, without once suspecting the source of its beautiful color, and they readily pay a higher price than for a similar article minus the carrot juice. One of our dairymen, who happened to own several cows yielding remarkably yellow butter, but who never added any coloring matter, was informed by an extensive commission dealer in your city, that he colored his butter too much.

Scalding Milk.—In a conversation with one of our best dairymen, he remarked that by a moderate heating, the quantity of cream was increased, but if heated too hot, it was diminished. His rule was to place the pans over hot water until they felt quite warm to the hand. I allow them to remain until the surface of the milk begins to wrinkle.

Wm. F. Bassett.

Ashfield, Jan. 30, 1860.

NATURAL OYSTER BEDS.

Along the Jersey shore, where the rivers empty into salt water, there exist large natural oyster beds, whence are procured the seed oysters which supply the planted beds. In the spring, the oyster in the natural bed deposits its spawn—a white gelatinous substance, which adheres to whatever it touches—and in this way spreads a large growth of small oysters, some not larger than the head of a pin. From these seed-beds, the oysters are taken and laid in the shoal salt water, to be easily taken up when wanted, and where they remain for several years, till they get of sufficient size for market. Thousands of bushels of the small seed oysters are in this way distributed along the shore on the planting grounds, or sold to be carried away for planting to other States. The practice is to take these seed oysters away in the spring and fall. If allowed to remain in their beds over fall, they will separate and spread, but if removed at that period of the year the young oysters die by thousands. If they do not get bedded early in the mud, the tides being blown out by the winds, leave them exposed, or, else, by adhering to the ice in the winter, they are lifted out of their beds, and either carried away or

crushed. Unless something is done for the protection of these natural oyster beds, it is believed that they will all be destroyed, and even those engaged in the business, it is said, acknowledge the destructiveness of the present mode of operation, and desire that the period of taking the oysters for planting shall be confined to the spring of the year. Forty days from the first of April, it is believed, would be sufficient for all planting purposes, and an effort will be made at Trenton to get the Legislature to limit the planting to that period. Clams have been nearly destroyed by the continued raking of the bars, and the seed is now only kept up by those hid in the bottoms of the deep channels.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

For the New England Farmer.

IS FARMING PROFITABLE?

MR. EDITOR:—Suppose a man who knows how to carry on a farm, and has a family to support, buys a farm of 100 acres of first quality land, which may be obtained here for $50 per acre; he also buys 30 cows, at $40 per head, and 1 pair horses for $200. He is now in debt $6400, farming tools included. 60 acres of the land will keep his cows well in pasture, with 4 acres more of green corn to feed them in July and August. 30 acres to grass, at 2 tons per acre, will keep them well in winter, with what roots he can raise from 3 acres of land. Then he has one acre more for corn to fat his hogs on, one for potatoes and one for buildings and garden.

FARM.	Dr.
To interest on $6400, at 6 per cent	$384,00
To hired man and woman 1 year	225,00
To support of family besides that raised on farm	250,00
To wear and tear of farming tools	11,00
To decrease in value of cows	30,00
	$900,00
	Cr.
By 300 lbs. cheese for each cow, 9000 lbs., at 10c ℔ lb	$900,00
By 100 lbs. butter for each cow, 3000 lbs., at 20c ℔ lb	600,00
By 30 calves, at 3 days old, at $1 ℔ head	30,00
By 700 lbs. pork, at $10 ℔ hundred	70,00
	$1,600,00

Now if he will stay at home and attend strictly to his business, without which he cannot prosper, according to these figures he will pay for his farm and stock, with an immense pile of interest money, in less than ten years. JAKE.

Essex, Vt., January 30, 1860.

CURIOUS BOUNDARY.—In the registry of deeds, at Cambridge, book 88, page 121, Nov. 29, 1784, there is recorded a deed of a parcel of land in Lexington from Solomon Pierce to Joseph Underwood, dated Nov. 26, 1784, in which we find the following as part of the description: "then southerly on Wm. Smith to a pine in the swamp marked W, then southerly on said William Smith to stump and stones *where Daniel Harrington licked William Smith.*" This seems to refer to an old tradition which we have often heard, that in the earlier days of the country it was the custom for farmers to "lick" their boys and their neighbors' boys on the bounds of their farms to make them remember where those bounds were.—*Lowell Citizen and News.*

For the New England Farmer.

TIME AND MANNER OF PLOWING—CUTTING AND CURING HAY.

MR. EDITOR:—I have already pointed out several questions of great importance to farmers, as yet undecided. I have chosen to consider them in this light, because, in some respects they really are so; and because I wish to do what has frequently been done before—to put my finger on the very spot "where the shoe pinches," which causes so many farmers to halt and limp in their awkward, ambling gait. There are several questions left of the same kind; among which are the following:

1. Is shallow or deep plowing the best? and should it be done in the Spring or Autumn?

After all that has been said and done upon these questions, both the time and the manner of plowing are still disputed questions. There is no settled theory, no common understanding—no well established principle of action, among farmers, for plowing different kinds of soil, in different situations, and at different seasons of the year.

A great many farmers, instead of plowing deep, and harrowing and manuring well, still continue to skim lightly over the ground, plowing only a few inches deep, and spreading their manure over a great extent of surface, which generally results in light crops, or, in case of drought, in no crop at all.

On the other hand, it is contended, that deep plowing is essential to an abundant growth of vegetables and grass, because it enables the roots to run down deeper into the soil and obtain therefrom more moistnre and nutriment, so that the severest drought will not be able materially to affect the crops; whereas, in shallow plowing, as the roots can never go down deeper into the soil than the plow has been, the crops in all arid situations will be almost necessarily destroyed by the drought. Those who plow deep, pulverize and manure well, generally have good crops, let the season be what it may, either wet or dry, hot or cold. But those who, year after year, skim over the surface, plowing just deep enough to enable them to cover their seed, being afraid to bring up any of the subsoil to the light of the sun, spreading their manure over a great extent, to be dried up and wasted by the action of the elements, generally have poor crops, after all their labor and care.

With regard to Spring and Autumn plowing, there is perhaps an equal diversity of opinion and practice. Most farmers continue to do their plowing in the Spring. And as it will not do to plow till the land is in a suitable condition, they are obiged to wait till it is sufficiently dry and warm, before commencing the operation, otherwise it will bake down, and become hard and lumpy; so that, if the season happens to be a cold and wet one, they will not have time to do their work thoroughly and well, and will stand a very poor chance for a crop; whereas, had they done their plowing in the Autumn, they would have been ready for putting in their crops, as soon as the ground was sufficiently dry and warm to receive the seed.

On the other hand, it is contended, that the Autumn is the better time for plowing, because the farmer has more leisure, the land is in better con-

dition, and the team is stronger, than in the Spring. By plowing late in the Autumn, all the insects in the soil will be dislodged from their hiding places, and thrown up to the surface, and destroyed by the frosts of Winter. Besides, Fall plowing causes all the vegetable matter in the soil to decompose, and prepare food for future crop.

2. When is the best time for cutting and curing hay?

On this subject there is a great discrepancy of opinion and practice. Most farmers have been in the habit of letting their grass stand till it was fully ripe—till the heads were plump and full of seed, the stems dry, hard and wiry, the leaves changed to a brownish color, and the sap departed—before beginning the operation of haying. And as they had much grass to cut, and were a long time in cutting and curing it, a great deal of it became dead ripe, as wiry and tough as sole leather, and of little or no value. The loss which farmers have sustained by letting their grass get too ripe before cutting it is immense. And yet many still neglect to cut their grass till it has gone to seed, because it is more easily cured—not considering that, in perfecting the seed, the stems and leaves are exhausted of all their starchy and saccharine substance, it being consumed in forming the seed, so that there is little or no nutriment or fattening quality left.

The best time for cutting and curing all kinds of grass, is, perhaps, the period of inflorescence, when the grass is in full bloom, or just beginning to blossom. The grass has now attained its chief development; and there is the greatest flow of juice in the stems and leaves. If cut at this period and cured well, it will contain a quantity of rich and nourishing matter nearly double to what it does when allowed to get dead ripe. Horses and cattle like early cut hay better than late cut hay. They will fatten on it, too; while they will barely subsist on that which is cut late. The same is the effect upon cows in milk. They will make more and better butter and cheese, when fed on early cut hay, than on that which has stood till it has lost its rich and nourishing qualities. The best time to cut and cure hay, then, is that which will secure the most of the natural juices in the hay.

JOHN GOLDSBURY.

Warwick, Mass., 1860.

THE ARCTIC SHARK.

I much wish to capture one of these monsters (sharks,) as wonderful stories are told us of their doings in Greenland; whether they are the white shark or the basking shark of natural history, I cannot find out. It is only of late years that the shark fishery has been carried on to any extent in Greenland; they are captured for the sake of their livers, which yield a considerable quantity of oil. It has very recently been ascertained that a valuable substance resembling spermaceti may be expressed from the carcase, and for this purpose powerful screw presses are now employed. In early winter the sharks are caught with hook and lines through holes in the ice.

The Esquimaux assert that they are insensible to pain; and Petersen assures me he has plunged a long knife several times into the head of one whilst it continued to feed upon a white whale entangled in his net! It is not sufficient to drive them away with sundry thrusts of spears or knives, but they must be towed away to some distance from the nets, otherwise they will return to feed. It must be remembered that the brain of a shark is extremely small in proportion to the size of its huge head. I have seen bullets fired through them with very little apparent effect; but if these creatures can feel, the devices practiced upon them by the Esquimaux must be cruel indeed.

It is only in certain localities that sharks are found, and in these places they are often attracted to the nets by the animals entangled in them. The dogs are not suffered to eat either the skin or the head, the former in consequence of its extreme roughness, and the the latter because it causes giddiness and makes them sick.—*McClintock's Narrative.*

For the New England Farmer.

FARMING AS A BUSINESS.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—"Is farming profitable?" must, ere this, have become quite familiar to your eyes. Mr. Pinkham's article has provoked so much discussion upon the above topic, that one would reasonably suppose the matter ought already to be settled beyond the possibility of a doubt; but it seems people do not all think alike yet, for your paper of Jan. 14th shows us that "Newbury, Vt.," has its Pinkham—perhaps, however, only in the comparative degree—who claims to have shown that stock-raising as a part of farming is not profitable. I think it is evident that "T. A. Bailey" shows stock-raising to be profitable; not in the abstract, but as an inseparable part of wholesome farming. Allowing his figures to be strictly correct, we have the following result, viz.: A four-years old colt, a veal of one month, a sheep, with her four years' progeny, and a calf raised to two and one-half years, have extracted $3.71 from his pocket, and so he thinks he is so much poorer; but has his farm not gained, much more than his "port-monnaie" has lost? If I wished to arrive at the true results of farming, I should as soon think of figuring up the profits of pulling chickweed as of raising calves, or corn, or grass, alone. These, with many other matters, go to make up the aggregate of farming, and must all be taken into account; not on one farm, not for one year, but the whole farming interest, for a series of years. Mr. Pinkham can calculate and Mr. Bailey figure, and yet people will not be convinced that farming is a losing business, when facts show to the contrary. How does it happen that an intelligent and industrious young man buys a farm, and only half pays for it, but eventually leaves it unencumbered and much improved, to a family of children, whom he has well-fed, clothed and educated from the proceeds of said farm, if farming is not profitable?

Such instances are by no means rare. I will ask, are not farmers, as a whole, much more wealthy and independent now than they were a few years ago? And how is this, if farming is not profitable? for they have "lived well," and their sons and daughters have not been "brought up" for a trifling amount. All comes from the farm, and yet farming is a losing business! 'Tis well that farmers do not all think alike, for then we might be flooded with "short horns," to the exclu-

sion of everything else for market; but so long as farmers do as now, I shall make it a point to sell no vegetables from the farm that will "bring" as much money when converted into some kinds of meat. Not because I can only get what my stock has cost shall I conclude stock-raising is not profitable, and abandon it.

I know that an intelligent man, who is willing to work with his hands and head, may make farming profitable in pocket, and healthy both for body and mind. That degree of industry and shrewdness requisite to keep the commercial man's head all the time above water, will float the farmer's bark smoothly and securely upon the bosom of the sea of life. G. W. H.

New Bedford, Jan., 1860.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

HUNGARIAN GRASS.

I wish to inquire if you, or any of the correspondents of the *Farmer*, made trial of the Hungarian grass the last season, and if so, what was the result? Is it a good article for soiling cows? Is it not similar to millet? I have raised millet, but think it is not as good to make milk as green corn. I cured some and weighed it. It produced at the rate of two and a half tons to the acre, the quality about equal to herdsgrass. If the Hungarian grass is as valuable as was represented by some, (who perhaps had seed to sell,) let us have the fact before seed time. ABEL F. ADAMS.

Fitchburg, Feb., 1860.

REMARKS.—The Hungarian grass, so called, is a species of millet, and would probably be a good crop for feeding to cattle in a green state. We have raised it for dry fodder. It is an annual plant, and may not be so profitable as other grasses on that account.

—

PIPE FOR CONDUCTING WATER.

We notice the inquiry of one of your readers of Billerica in the *Farmer*, for the best pipe to use for conducting water on his premises, and should be pleased to have you inform him, that the Boston Belting Company manufacture an article which possesses the very properties he requires, and is every way adapted to his purpose.

PRICES.

½	INCH, (INSIDE DIAMETER,)			11	CENTS PER FOOT.	
¾	"	"	"	15	"	" "
1	"	"	"	24	"	" "
1¼	"	"	"	35	"	" "
1¼	"	"	"	45	"	" "

These are all warranted to stand 200 lbs. pressure to the inch. TAPPAN, MCBURNEY & CO.

Boston, Feb., 1860.

—

SPLENTS ON A COLT.

I have a very valuable year-old colt that has splents on both of his hind feet. Can you, or any of your correspondents, tell me if there is any cure for it, and if so, what, and oblige

A. C. QUIMBY.

North Sandwich, N. H., Jan. 22, 1860.

REMARKS.—We wish we could—but there is no remedy within our knowledge. Perhaps others may advise you.

THE HORSE PITCHFORK.

I wish to inquire through the columns of the *Farmer* about the horse pitchfork; some of your correspondents have spoken of it as a labor-saving implement. If it is, I should like to know how it operates, its cost, and if it can be used in any common barn. W. N. C.

Hartford, Vt., Feb., 1860.

REMARKS.—Those who understand the cost and operations of the horse pitchfork will confer a favor by replying to the above.

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THE CASH AND THE ONION MAGGOT.

MR. EDITOR:—A few months since, it was announced in your paper by a citizen of Vermont, that he had discovered a certain cure or remedy for the onion maggot, and was ready to communicate this remedy to any one interested who would adequately reward him for his enterprise in making the discovery. Many an eye glistened at the hope of such a development of intelligence. One of our largest cultivators of this vegetable, who has some seasons raised more than 4000 bushels of onions, entered into correspondence with this discoverer, to learn on what terms he might avail himself of the benefits of this discovery.

This gentleman now informs us, that he has received the terms of the son of the Green Mountains, which are, $100,000 to be paid or adequately secured, so that he may be secure from want for the remainder of his life. Or, if he wants the remedy for his own personal use only, that he will let him have it for $60,000. Thus, you see, sir, here is a new idea to be taken into view, in your discussion of the "profits of farming." P.

February 6, 1860.

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MUCK AS A TOP-DRESSING.

How will it do to apply as a top-dressing to grass land of a rather dryish soil, muck that is well pulverized by having been exposed to the action of frost for several years after having been taken from the swamp? A SUBSCRIBER.

REMARKS.—It will undoubtedly have a good effect. Will you make an experiment, by applying the muck to quarter of an acre, leaving quarter of an acre directly by its side without any, and at some future day give us the result?

—

BUTTER AND MILK.

If "S. C. C.," Brattleboro', Vt., will examine the statement of Gov. Boutwell, in the *Farmer* of Feb. 4th, a little more thoroughly, he will see that, allowing 20 lbs. of milk to a can, the statement is correct throughout. A radical error occurs in "S. C. C.'s" reduction of the pounds of milk to cans, which occasions the wide difference in his results.

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KEROSENE FOR LICE AND TICKS.

Please tell correspondents who wish for *light* on the subject, that kerosene oil will kill lice and ticks, without injury to the animals; so say those that have tried it. W. I.

RECEIPT FOR WASHING FLUID.

A very excellent article for this purpose may be made by dissolving 4 oz. saltpetre in 2 qts. water, and add this to a solution of 1 oz. borax in 1 pt. water. Mix about five tablespoonfuls with a pint of common soft soap, and add to the water in which you soak your clothes. It is more effective, if they are allowed to soak over night.

WASHER.

TO CURE WARTS.

I will say on the authority of one of the first physicians in Hampden county, and one well acquainted with horses, that the application of equal parts of lamp oil and molasses, will cure the worst of warts on man or beast. T.

Chicopee, Jan., 1860.

WINTER BUTTER.

L. R. HAVINS, Foxboro', scalds the milk, sets it where it will not freeze; sprinkles on a little salt each time cream is added. Gets good sweet butter.

FOUNDERED HORSES.

I wish to inquire the best method of treatment for a horse that is foundered in the chest? Also, for the thrush in the foot? H. C.

CARROTS OR POTATOES FOR HOGS.

Which is the best food for hogs in the winter season, carrots or potatoes? E. QUIMBY.

For the New England Farmer.

DISTURBANCE OF TILE DRAINS.

The statement made by a correspondent in the *N. E. Farmer* that tiles in drains are liable to be displaced by loaded teams passing over them, is contradicted by my experience, and I cannot believe that it is borne out by fact in any case where tiles are well laid. W. D. may lay tile even on his meadow land without fear that they will be injured if ordinary care is used. Stone drains are much more liable to disturbance from every cause than tile drains, and any assertion to the contrary must be based upon extraordinary experience, if upon any.

A tiledrain about two hundred feet long was laid by my direction in a swamp where the trench was three feet deep, and the tile laid on hard-pan bottom. A drive-way was immediately constructed over it, and all the stone for a house cellar, and loads of other heavy material carried over without any disturbance. A constant use has been made of the drive-way since that time, and for two years, without ceasing, the drain has discharged an average of two thousand and four hundred gallons of water, daily. In another case, drains were laid four feet deep in a meadow where the mud was soft and of undetermined depth; after the drains had been discharging for two or three months, and the meadow had dried enough to allow teams to cross, sand and other earth was carted on to the depth of six or eight inches; no care was used in driving over the drains, and yet they have continued to discharge to their full capacity for nearly a year since the earth was hauled on.

I have directed about twelve thousand dollars' worth of draining, and never used any care about the crossing of loaded teams, yet no drain of the whole number has, to my knowledge, failed, or been at all injured from that cause.

J. HERBERT SHEDD.

Boston, January 30, 1860.

A MONKEY'S AFFECTION FOR RATS.

One of the principal objects of attraction at the Aquarium in Bromfield Street, is a female monkey that exhibits an extraordinary affection for rats. She is one of the "Happy Family" belonging to the establishment, and soon after being placed there, conceived a fondness for a rat, that was also a member of the "family." Upon every occasion when she could catch the rat, she would hold it in her arms, fondling it as a mother does her child, and caressing it with every mark of affection. The rat soon began to like this kindness, and would remain for hours in the arms of its friend. Finally the monkey would not allow the rat from its arms a moment, even to feed, and at last the pet was actually starved to death. The monkey met this bereavement much in the same manner as human parents do the loss of offspring who have died in consequence of over-fondness, with sobs and moans, and she would not be comforted.

For twelve hours she held the dead rat to her breast, refusing all the time to eat, or to take notice of any of the other animals of the "family." At last Mr. Cutting took the rat from her by force, and fearing that she would voluntarily starve herself to death, he placed three other rats in the cage. This addition to her "family" brought the bereaved animal to her senses, and the care requisite to the government of these pets takes up all her time, and she is twice as cheerful as ever before. She is never for a moment without some one of them in her arms, and frequently fondles two of them at a time. But the new comers are not altogether grateful for her attentions, and most frequently, while she is holding one of them, the others are eyeing her askance from some distant part of the cage.—*Traveller.*

For the New England Farmer.

MR. PORTER'S SQUASH.

The magnificent vegetable, a description of which I gave you last autumn, has now reached the last stages of its being. It shrunk 24 pounds, weighing only 140 pounds on the day it was cut. The halves appear as large as a common wash tub, the meat measures four inches in thickness; and is as yellow as a bright carrot. It has probably lost some of its vitality, by being kept in a warm room so long. The seeds are numerous, plump, fair and handsome; many of them had sprouted one inch or more. I am thus particular, in discribing its present condition, because much inquiry has been made about it, by letter or otherwise; and much solicitude to obtain some of the seeds. Mr. Stevens, of the Legislature, is an experienced cultivator of fruit, who lives near Mr. Porter, and will tell you all about this truly extraordinary squash. J. W. PROCTOR.

South Danvers, Jan. 28, 1860.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

CUTTING ROBBIE'S HAIR.

BY MARY E. BRYAN.

And so this little household flower of ours must be shorn of some of its superfluous beauties. Even roses and geraniums must be pruned sometimes, and these uncut, silken rings, with the golden sunshine of three summers entangled in their meshes, must make the acquaintance of scissors at last. Grandpapa says so, and adds that if it is not done shortly, the low plum boughs will make another Absalom of Robbie, sometime, when the blue-eyed gander is in hot pursuit.

There is no denying that the curls need trimming; they are too many and too thick, and they make the little head droop uneasily to one side, like a half-blown moss rose-bud under the weight of its own moss, and straggle sometimes into the mouth and eyes. Yes; they must be cut; but it seems such a pity! Little curls that we have twined around our fingers when all wet from the morning bath; little curls that we have played with while singing the evening lullaby; little curls that our tears have fallen upon when the baby eyes were shut in sleep!—ah! only mothers know how dear such curls are to mothers' hearts.

Here are the scissors. Robbie must sit very still, now, while his hair is being cut. Why, sir, why do you smile and look at me so beamingly with your blue eyes? How do you know that I am not going to cut off that saucy head of yours with these great, sharp, cruel scissors? O, holy faith of childhood! If we could only trust our God, as implicitly as babes do in their mothers! "Except ye become as little children, ye shall not enter the kingdom of Heaven."

Be very still, now, while I comb out these threads of shining floss. The mother is the first barber to her boy; no other fingers can perform the sweet office so gently; but when fifteen or twenty years have flown, rougher hands will comb and cut these locks, all bronzed by suns and winds, and clustering above the brow of manhood. The white-aproned, clean-handed barber will then arrange them in the latest style of trimming; pomading, perfu—— no; my boy will not be a dandy! by these strong limbs and the sturdy look in those eyes—no.

But to think the down of manhood will gather on this cherry upper lip and on chin and cheek, dimpled as though by the touch of an angel's finger. To think that this round neck of alabaster will be choked up with a man's necktie, and these lily-bud feet will wear high-heeled boots, and——. Faugh! I will not think of it. I cannot realize that this fair baby of mine—but three summers out of Paradise, and still smiling in his sleep, remembering what the angels said there—shall ever be so metamorphosed.

And yet the boy's babyhood is rapidly fleeting, and the severing of these ringlets seems like cutting the golden thread that links his infancy to his childhood. O, Robbie, I can call you "baby" but little longer. You blue-eyed elf, you are already rebelling at being treated as one. You had rather run, now, after your painted wagon, than lie in your rose-curtained crib, and hear me sing of the baby whose cradle was the tree-top, and whose nurse was the wind. You will not wear your corals, because grandpa says they are for babies, not for *men*; you had rather hunt hens' nests than play bo-peep; and when I hold out my arms to you, as you stand in the door-way twirling your hat, you turn your head on one side, like a half-tamed bird a-perch on one's finger, while your dancing eyes seem to say, "You'll see, you'll see! I'll soon take flight!" Pretty soon you will not believe in the wolf that talked to Red-Riding-Hood, and will lose faith in Santa Claus.

I cannot keep the bud in its sheath; I cannot stay the little bark that slips so rapidly down the hurrying stream of life. Soon, the rill will broaden into a river, and the realm of roses and sunny skies be passed. And the gold of these ringlets shall be dimmed by time, and the roses perchance drop from these pretty cheeks, and sorrow and sin, it may be, cloud the clear, blue heaven of these innocent eyes.

There! I am crying. How grandpapa would laugh if he caught me, and say it was because I wanted the curls to stay and make a girl of his boy. See! there are tears glistening in these sunny clusters of hair, like dew among the golden-blossomed jessamine vines, and your eyes are looking at me with wide-opened wonder, and your red lip beginning to quiver with ready sympathy. O, Robbie! even if the worst should come, and I should have to lay this bright head with its locks of undimmed lustre under a coffin-lid, and see the grass grow between my darling and the bosom he once slept upon, I should still thank God for having given him, for having crowned my life with the holy blessing of motherhood; for it is such little arms as these around our necks, Robbie, that make us feel strong to do, and to suffer; it is drawing such little heads as these close, *close* to our breasts, that keeps the hearts of some of us mothers from breaking.

There! that is grandpapa's step upon the stair—and the task is just completed—the little lamb is shorn. Look at this bright heap of glistening silk, such as Persian looms never wove into richest fabric. Here is "golden fleece" for you, such as never the lover of Medea sought. You did not know that such a glittering wealth grew on your little head—did you, blue-eyed baby?

No, you must not clutch it with those destructive fingers. Go—grandpa is calling you—let him see his little man; but leave me these—the first curls cut from my baby's head. I will put them away to remind me, in other days, of his sweet, lost infancy.—*Southern Field and Fireside.*

BLOWING OUT A CANDLE.—There is one small fact in domestic economy which is not generally known, but which is useful as saving time, trouble and temper. If the candle be blown out holding it above you, the wick will not smoulder down, and may therefore be easily lighted again, but if blown upon downward, the contrary is the case. *Scientific Artisan.*

SNOW CORN CAKES.—Take any desired quantity of Indian meal and sugar, and salt to the taste, stir in with a spoon, twice or three times its bulk of snow. Fry a little on a hot griddle, if it cooks too dry to turn well, add more snow: if too wet to be light, add more meal. Cook the same as buckwheat cakes.